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MID KENT EDITION

Issue no 548

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Church crowns Welby

Thousands turn out for ceremony at cathedral

- 105th archbishop enthroned
- VIPs join congregation
- Millions watch worldwide
- Ring of steel around city

FULL DETAILS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - PAGES 3, 4 AND 5

DEVELOPMENT

D-day looms for local plans

FEARS are growing that many local councils are leaving it too late to ensure long term local planning for their areas conform to strict new Government guidelines.

And there are increasing concerns failure to do so could see development being imposed on areas. **PAGE 7**

EDUCATION

Kent Test set for shake up?

COUNCIL education chiefs say they are looking at altering the Kent Test in order to make a more 'level playing field' for youngsters seeking a place in a selective school.

And top of the agenda is a new look test which cracks down on the coaching industry which surrounds it. **PAGE 12**

WELFARE

Fury over live export shift

CAMPAIGNERS say they will shift their protests to Dover, if necessary, after the port admitted it could soon be forced to allow the controversial live animal export trade to operate from its port.

The trade has been operating from Ramsgate despite legal challenges. **PAGE 13**

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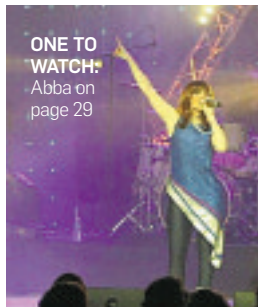
News

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INSIDE

- News 2-18
- Kent Remembered 19
- Comment/Feedback 20-21

INSIDE



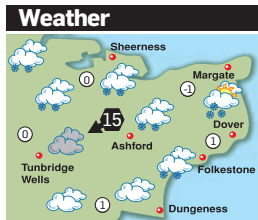
ONE TO WATCH:
Abba on page 29

- Interview 23&25
- Food and Drink 27

LEISURE

Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, 24, 28-30

- Business 31-33
- Property 34-37
- Driving 39-42
- Main Dealer Service 43-53
- Jobs & Notices 55-61
- Sport 62-63



TODAY: Dull and grey with snow. Cold again with a fresh north-easterly wind. Max temp 1-4C (34-39F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with variable cloud. Min temp -2 to 1C (28-34F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	09.02	5.7	21.22	6.0
Margate	10.01	4.2	22.24	4.3
St Mary's	02.33	4.8	14.57	4.9

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 2C	Min -2C
Tuesday	Max 3C	Min -2C
Wednesday	Max 3C	Min -3C
Thursday	Max 5C	Min -1C
Friday	Max 7C	Min 1C
Saturday	Max 10C	Min 4C

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

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EDUCATION

County town school signs up to satellite grammar partnership

By Chris Britcher

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KENT County Council has confirmed it has struck a deal with a Maidstone school to work towards establishing a satellite grammar in Sevenoaks.

The west Kent town currently has no selective school, with students having to travel as far as Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells or Maidstone to access a grammar.

But now KCC – after admitting talks with previous schools had broken down – has confirmed it is working with Valley Invicta Academies Trust (VIAT) to propose a satellite of Invicta Grammar School based in Sevenoaks.

Invicta Grammar School and Valley Park School are both recognised by education watchdog Ofsted as 'outstanding' and the former is currently the highest performing non super-selective school in the county.

KCC will meet all the costs incurred by VIAT and the school has ensured a promise from the council to support efforts to secure funding to enhance the shared sporting facilities between the trust's two Maidstone schools.

Leader of KCC Paul Carter said: "Thousands of people told us that they wanted us to explore the provision of grammar school education in the Sevenoaks area and this partnership shows KCC's commitment to reflecting those views. In many respects, this is the definition of democracy in Kent."

Mike Whiting, KCC cabinet member for education, learning and skills, said: "I am delighted that KCC and VIAT are working closely together to move this project forward. I will be sending Michael Gove a joint proposal for grammar provision in Sevenoaks by Monday."

Dr Philip Limbert, chief executive officer of VIAT, and Julie Derrick, head teacher of Invicta Grammar School, issued a joint statement. It said: "KCC and VIAT working together on this is good news for the 2,600 young people in Maidstone who are proud students at Valley Park and Invicta Grammar School – and shows our determination to pursue and achieve excellence."



Inside this issue, be sure to read your pull-out guide to the biggest issues impacting on education in the county. And elsewhere in the news pages, find out about proposed changes to the Kent Test. All in today's Kent on Sunday.

However, the issue of where the school will be sited is by no means clear.

Just last week, government ministers said a site earmarked for development should instead be used for a free school.

It comes just two months after KCC confirmed the old Wildernes School site in

PARTNERSHIP: Invicta Grammar School is currently the highest performing non super-selective school in the county

Sevenoaks would house new grammar school annexes.

The KCC-owned land is currently leased to the Knole Academy, but due to be vacated in 2015 once its £18.3 million extension is built, at which time the Sevenoaks Grammar School would open its doors.

The law forbids the opening of new grammars, but changes made by the Government last year will enable one to open in the town as a "satellite" of an existing one - now named as Invicta Grammar.

But the Department for Education has stepped in, saying the Wildernes site should instead be used for the planned Trinity Free School, which is due to open in September.

KCC's Mike Whiting added: "On this issue and in this location, it is important for KCC to hold its course because there is a clear need for selective education places in Sevenoaks. It is something that residents have asked us for and it is something the council has voted to pursue proposals on."

"We will be looking in detail at what the government is proposing – and how we might respond."



MILD STROKE: Duke of Kent

ROYALTY

Hospital stay for the duke

THE Duke of Kent is recovering this weekend after suffering a "mild stroke" earlier this week.

Buckingham Palace has confirmed the 77-year-old, who is the Queen's cousin, was taken ill last Sunday night.

Prince Edward was moved to University College Hospital in London before being transferred to the King Edward VII Hospital – the same hospital in which the Queen was treated earlier this month for symptoms of gastroenteritis.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said: "He's still being assessed and it's not thought to be serious."

He said the duke was "feeling well and looking forward to resuming official engagements as soon as possible".

The duke is the son of the late Prince George, the fourth son of the Queen's grandfather King George V.

He is best known as president of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club and presents the Wimbledon trophies each summer.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent both live at Kensington Palace.

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ENTHRONEMENT

Prayers and praise for Church's new leader

By Marijke Cox

mariike.cox@archant.co.uk

THE eyes of the world were fixed on Canterbury on Thursday as the new archbishop officially took his place as the leader of the Church of England and the 85-million strong Anglican Communion.

A major security operation was in force – including 200 officers and staff from Kent Police – as VIP guests, including HRH The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, and Prime Minister David Cameron, arrived to play their part in the internationally significant event.

For Archbishop Justin Welby, however, the day started off decidedly more modest, with an early morning run around the city.

But hours later, the 58-year-old became the focus of the world, as he was officially installed as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury.

Speaking to the 2,000-strong congregation, he said: "Today we may properly differ on the degrees of state and private responsibility in a healthy society.

"But if we sever our roots in Christ we abandon the stability which enables good decision making.

“There can be no final justice, or security, or love, or hope in our society if it is not finally based on rootedness in Christ.”

For the first time in history, the archbishop was installed on the diocesan throne by a woman, the Archdeacon of Canterbury, Sheila Watson, which will undoubtedly bring the issue of women bishops back to the forefront.

Picture: PHIL TOSCANO/PA WIRE



SERVICE: Top, Justin Welby enters cathedral, below, the archbishop during the enthronement

Rowan Williams, voted in favour of their introduction.

A young female member of the Anglican Communion, 17-year-old Evangeline Kanagasooriam, also played an important role, welcoming – and questioning – Archbishop Welby as he entered the cathedral.

Representatives from around the world were among the congregation and the service involved traditional hymns combined with African drummers and dancers, and improvised organ music. Personal touches included the music, much of which was chosen by the archbishop.

DISTURBANCE

Protester pleads guilty

A PROTESTER who lunged at a car carrying Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall as they travelled to the enthronement pleaded guilty to causing a breach of the peace.

Jonathan Elliot, 47, of Sydney Road, Whitstable, will have to pay £100 if he does so again in the next 12 months. Supt Andrea Bishop said between 50 and 100 people took part in "lawful and peaceful" protests.

FAMOUS FACES

VIP guests at cathedral

PRIME Minister David Cameron and Labour leader Ed Miliband joined a host of VIP guests to attend Thursday's ceremony.

High profile members of the Church, such as the Archbishop of York, and royals such as Prince Charles were also there. The High Sheriff of Kent, Mike Bax, and Kent County Council leader Paul Carter represented the county.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

City hits back at critics

CANTERBURY City Council has defended its decision not to hold any public event or put up viewing screens during the inauguration.

A spokesman said the enthronement was invite-only and therefore "not that kind of event" when asked why nothing was held in the Buttermarket area. He said: "The council's role was to facilitate, such as helping with parking."

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News

ENTHRONEMENT OF THE 105TH ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

100 YEARS

Church leaders of the last century

Randall Davidson
1903-28

The first person to retire from the post. He had difficulty preaching, due to shotgun pellets lodged in his body after a childhood shooting accident.

Cosmo Gordon Lang
1928-42

A controversial figure after a speech in which he criticised King Edward VIII during his abdication. He also had difficult relations with Winston Churchill.

William Temple
1942-44

The first archbishop to go to war since the middle ages. A reformer, he supported economic and social change as well as working class causes.

Geoffrey Fisher
1945-61

Presided over the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. He also met with Pope John XXIII – the first time the heads of the two churches had met since King Henry's break with Rome.

POLITICS

A position of power

THE "turbulent priests" who have occupied the prestigious post of Archbishop of Canterbury have never shied away from confrontation with the secular authorities.

Whether Thomas Becket defying the will of Henry II, his one-time friend, or Dr Rowan Williams comparing rioters to bankers, the head of the Church of England is a political as well as spiritual position.

Justin Welby will find his time no different, with divide over same sex marriage and the ordination of women bishops threatening to deliver hugely damaging blows to the Church's reputation.

Even before his enthronement, Justin Welby entered the arena saying "children and families will pay the price" if Government plans to change the benefit system go ahead in their current form.

And it's not the first time David Cameron's coalition has come under fire. Comments from Dr Williams sparked leading politicians to urge the archbishop to leave the politics to them, as following the riots of 2011 he said "bonds of trust"



MURDERED: Thomas Becket

had broken throughout society.

Dr Williams also criticised the US over the killing of Osama bin Laden, saying that shooting "an unarmed man" made him "very uncomfortable".

■ The Archbishop of Canterbury is appointed by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Queen, and can be controversial.

It appeared Margaret Thatcher picked the outsider George Carey as a riposte to his predecessor Robert Runcie who had attacked her policies.

The most famous holder of the position was Thomas Becket, killed by knights acting on what they believed to be the best interests of King Henry II who, legend has it, said "will no-one rid me of this turbulent priest?" as the two fell out.

SERVICE

Archbishop struck congregation fell

By Marijke Cox, in the cathedral

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

IN A spectacle of African dance, spine-tingling choir singing and a royal audience, the Most Reverend Justin Portal Welby was enthroned as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury.

International and national press flocked to Canterbury Cathedral as the eyes of the world settled on our doorstep to witness the inauguration of the former oil executive-turned-man of God.

A 2,000-strong congregation, made up of church leaders, parishioners, politicians and journalists, filed into the cathedral and a crowd – including some protesters calling for an end to public service cuts – gathered outside Christ Church Gate, the main entrance to the Cathedral Precincts.

BBC cameras, which were broadcasting live, moved overhead in the cathedral, taking in the faces of the excited crowd – this was, after all, a spectacle which happens, on average, just once every 10 years.

Canterbury Cathedral was, as usual, breathtaking – one of the main stars of the show – and as the procession of representatives from the international and national Anglican Communion began to proceed through the West Door and through the Nave to their places, a buzz of anticipation settled.

The cathedral's spellbinding choir sang as the procession moved through, with the congregation then joining in to sing the first of what would be many hymns carefully selected for the event.

Much of the music for the service was chosen by the archbishop himself.

Faces of local politicians, representatives of Kent and the Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, in ceremonial dress with a train-bearer, filed through.

Prime Minister David Cameron was expected to attend and according to cathedral staff did so, although he seemed to keep a low profile, with few people spotting him among the dignitaries. Opposition leader Ed Miliband was also in attendance.

HRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall – dressed head-to-toe in purple – were the last to proceed through the cathedral before the West Door was closed.

A silence fell; you could hear a pin drop. And then the traditional three knocks came.

The door was opened to a fanfare and there stood the new archbishop in full regalia. Religious or not, it was a heart-stopping moment.

A young member of the congregation, Evangeline Kanagasooriam, 17, greeted him asking "why do you request entry?"

The archbishop answered: "I am Justin, a servant of Jesus Christ, and I come as one seeking the grace of God, to travel with you in his service together."

He moved through to the Nave altar where the ceremony started in full flow with a welcome from the Dean of Canterbury, Robert Willis.

The archbishop was led to the diocesan throne to be installed by the Archdeacon of Canterbury as Bishop of the See of Canterbury and then to the Chair of St Augustine where the dean installed him as Primate of All England.

Formal proceedings were interlinked with hymns, an energetic African dance and five gifts bestowed from overseas members of the Anglican Communion.



This served to remind us that the Archbishop of Canterbury is not just the diocesan bishop for Canterbury and surrounding districts, but an international figurehead.

But the applause which rang out as he was officially enthroned brought it back to reality – this is a man who, like many, has faced devastating traumas in his life, but has overcome them to become one of the most important people in the world and that in itself should be celebrated.

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SERVICE: Archbishop Justin Welby entered the cathedral after knocking on the door with a wooden staff. Thousands attended the service, including HRH The Prince of Wales and his wife

PROFILE

Man behind the mitre

ARCHBISHOP Welby was first ordained in 1992, having spent 11 years working in the oil industry before he received the calling from God and gave up a six-figure salary to instead study theology at Durham.

First a vicar in Warwickshire, he then became a canon of Coventry Cathedral, and the Dean of Liverpool, before being appointed as Bishop of Durham in November 2011.

He had only been a bishop for just over a year when he was chosen to become Archbishop of Canterbury.

The archbishop has spoken about social reform and economic regeneration, but also of his faith, saying that a relationship with Jesus Christ is the answer to humanity's deepest needs.

According to theological commentators, his ultimate aim is to bring the Church back to the heart of Britain.

Influences on his teachings include Vietnamese Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan, who was imprisoned for 12 years by the communist regime – nine of them spent in solitary confinement. Cardinal Thuan's



example of Christian persistence in extreme hardship is a familiar theme in the new archbishop's teaching.

Another major influence is a Roman Catholic monk in Switzerland, who goes to bed at midnight and rises daily at 4am to pray.

To prepare himself for high office, Archbishop Welby recently undertook a spiritual retreat at a French monastery.

The 57-year-old cleric is married and has six children. One of his daughters tragically died in a car crash in 1983 at the age of just seven months.

100 YEARS

Church leaders of the last century

Michael Ramsay
1961-74

Supported liberalising laws on homosexuality and co-operation with the Catholic Church.

Donald Coggan
1974-80

A strong supporter of the ordination of women and unique preaching style.

Robert Runcie
1980-91

Holder of the Military Cross, he was keen to work with Catholics, but fell out with the government of the time over inner city social issues.

George Carey
1991-2002

A more Conservative figure than many of his predecessors. Oversaw the Church ordain its first women priests.

Rowan Williams
2002-12

Fiercely intelligent, he generated headlines with his outspoken views, but his final days were marred by the vote against ordaining women bishops.

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COUNCILS

Development fears rise as d-day looms for local plans

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SWATHES of rural and urban land could be put at risk of unwanted development unless councils adopt their new local plans before next week's deadline.

Several district and borough authorities in the county are yet to adopt their Local Development Framework (LDF) – which sets out long-term planning strategies – meaning they could be powerless to stop development they believe is wrong.

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that councils which do not have an up-to-date plan will be subject to "presumption in favour of sustainable development" – with the default answer for development being 'yes', unless the site has special protection.

According to Protect Kent, the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), councils in Canterbury, Gravesham, Maidstone, Shepway, Swale and Thanet have no new plans in place, despite being aware of the March 27 deadline for the past year. A spokes-



AT RISK: In the absence of a local plan there will be a "presumption in favour of sustainable development"

man warned it could have a significant impact (see column).

But Shepway District Council told KoS it would have its plan in place by next week and Gravesham Borough Council – which initially submitted a controversial LDF involving potential development on greenbelt land – said its revised plan was with the secretary of state for determination.

Canterbury City Council and Medway Council, however, will not have their plans ready by deadline day.

A spokesman for Canterbury said: "We believe our current local plan, adopted in 2006, is largely compliant with NPPF."

Medway Council blamed its lack of submission on bird charity the RSPB.

A spokesman for the unitary authority said it had submitted its plan

for independent examination in February last year but fears raised by the RSPB over the Lodge Hill development on the Hoo Peninsula – where developers want to build 5,000 new homes – had caused delays.

Swale Borough Council's cabinet met this week to discuss its local plan where concerns have been raised over housing requirements.

Thanet and Maidstone councils did not respond to our request for information about the LDFs.

Protect Kent warned that in the remaining districts, although councils had adopted their local plans, they had done so before the NPPF was implemented in March 2012.

The spokesman said: "They are to some degree open to challenge if they are not fully compliant with NPPF."

OPINION

Jamie Weir from Protect Kent gives his views on the planning framework

The idea of the NPPF document was to streamline and simplify over 1,000 pages of guidance into a 59-page document.

As a draft, CPRE led a campaign against the NPPF due to its unconstrained pro-development stance, described by many as nothing more than a builder's charter.

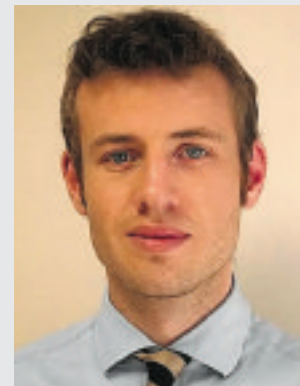
The importance of the NPPF cannot be understated. It is the most senior piece of planning policy in the country, and as a result, all other local plans have to conform to it.

When the NPPF was published, the government gave councils one year in which to ensure their local plan would conform to this national policy.

If the local plan did not, then the NPPF would take precedence in planning decision making. This one year deadline is almost upon us, and councils have been extremely slow to react to the changes. In Kent, many have failed to update their plans and this is likely to lead to a dangerous decline in local decision making.

Local plans are at their very core based on local facts, desires and opinions.

While they may at times not be fully agreed by everybody, local populations are consulted when they are being prepared, and on this basis they represent local views.



Although the Government have been using the rhetoric of 'localism' and local decision making, the anniversary deadline is likely to take planning decisions out of the hands of many locals as the national policy begins to take priority.

Instead of your councils asking themselves whether development is required and good enough to be permitted, they must now ask whether there is a reason to not allow development.

The danger is that this 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' will lead to large scale development on greenfield sites which could never have happened under a local plan.

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EDUCATION

Streamlined Kent Test to 'level the playing field'

Critics tell **Marijke Cox** hopes of creating 'uncoachable' 11-plus assessments are 'totally naïve'

MOVES are under way to change the current Kent Test system to stop the widespread tutoring culture seen in Kent – but education chiefs admit “nothing is uncoachable”.

At a meeting of Kent County Council's education cabinet committee this week, members hinted at an assessment based more on what pupils learn in the classroom for their SATs.

It is hoped that by streamlining the assessment – which currently involves numeracy, literacy and verbal and non-verbal reasoning – in such a way, it would become less coachable.

The Kent Test comes in for fierce criticism each year due to the industry that springs up around it, which sees children tutored in the non-verbal and verbal reasoning tasks, which are not covered in the classroom.

Those achieving a pass grade that way are then frequently unable to keep up and struggle.

Any detail on what kind of test KCC will agree to is so far unclear but the four main themes are that the assessment should be:

- as “uncoachable” as possible.
- include a stronger literacy element.
- be flexible in application so results can be used in different ways.
- avoid commercial exploitation, for example, marketing of practice materials to parents.

These points came from a survey of headteachers last year, a review which has been described as “ridiculous” by critics claiming it achieved nothing other than establishing the obvious.

SELECTIVE EDUCATION

The Kent Test – or 11-plus – is the method used to select students believed to be suitable for a grammar school place.

The exam is sat by Year 6 students in September – almost exactly a year before they start at secondary school. The results are then published in October and offers for schools confirmed by March 1.

Passing is, however, no guarantee of securing a grammar place as it is dependent on demand.

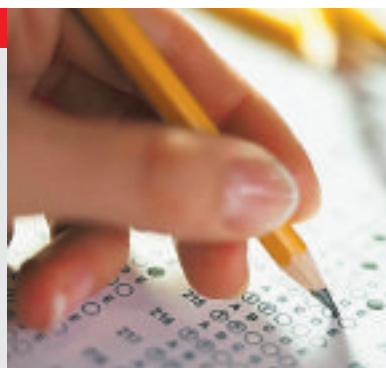
The paper itself comprises a 50-minute verbal reasoning paper, 40-minute non-verbal, one-hour maths and one-hour writing exercise.

But with the contract for assessment materials and services for the 11-plus due to expire and tenders being invited from test providers to take over from September 2015, change is in the air.

Director for education Patrick Leeson said it would not be for a new 11-plus but a “fit for purpose” set of testing materials to assess children for their suitability for grammar school.

Education consultant Peter Read, from Kent Independent Education Advice, said it was likely KCC would move towards a model introduced in Buckinghamshire and Bexley, where there was a widespread coaching industry.

The Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring, based



at the University of Durham, provides the assessments which are designed to stop coaching.

But Mr Read said it would be “naïve” to think the tutoring industry would not “swing into action” with test papers and coaching becoming available to parents. He explained: “It's totally naïve to think 11-plus material is secure and test papers won't go into circulation.”

KCC member for education, Mike Whiting, admitted there were no “uncoachable” tests, but added: “We can move towards that and make it as much of a level playing field as we can.”

“I stand up for every parent's right to do what's best for their child. Whether that's reading with

them at home or doing sums. Parents will, if they can, perhaps buy some kind of help in for their child. I defend their right to improve their child's education. What we're trying to do is come up with some way to ensure those without that have a more level playing field when it comes to passing the test.”

Industry insiders recognise that the 11-plus assessment – introduced to enhance social mobility – favours those from more affluent backgrounds, with parents who can afford coaching.

Cllr Whiting said he also wants a universal test. Dover grammar schools have their own test, while so-called ‘super-selective’ schools in west Kent demand a high pass mark to win a place.

He explained: “It would be wrong to have little Jonny dragged around 33 different grammar schools to take 33 different tests because he doesn't know which one would be offered.”

Liberal Democrat leader, and leader of the opposition at KCC, Trudy Dean, criticised the idea of a SATs-like curriculum approach.

“My understanding is that the majority of primary teachers don't like selection and imposing a test based on the curriculum puts selection at the heart of whatever the teacher does,” she said.

She also raised fears that new testing could be a backward step, adding: “I don't feel we're going in the right direction and we still need to do much more for poorer backgrounds.”

Medway Council – which uses the Medway Test – is not planning any changes to its exam.



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WILDLIFE

Blackbird top of the tree as schoolchildren turn their hand at birdwatching for important study

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

BLACKBIRDS and starlings are among the county's most spotted birds, following a major survey conducted earlier this year.

The findings were part of the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch which saw more than 3,700 pupils and teachers from 59 schools across the county monitor their playgrounds and playing fields.

They recorded what they saw for one hour between January 21 and February 1.

Their sightings revealed the blackbird was top of the class, closely followed by the starling and then the woodpigeon.

It is thought these birds emerged top as they are drawn to large open grassy areas, such as school playing fields, where they can congregate and look for food such as worms from the short-cropped grass.

The findings will also contribute to the results of RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch – the biggest wildlife survey in the world – which will be revealed later this month.

Don Fuller, RSPB south east youth and education officer, said: "It's encouraging so many children and teachers continue to take part, especially given the heavy snow and freezing temperatures that hit many parts of the county at the end of January this year.

"Children have fewer opportunities than ever

BIG SCHOOLS' BIRDWATCH 2013 KENT RESULTS			
SPECIES	MEAN PER SCHOOL	RANK	% OF SCHOOLS
1 Blackbird	6.95	1	98.28
Starling	4.23	2	58.62
Woodpigeon	4.16	3	81.03
Black headed gull	3.48	4	50.00
House sparrow	3.22	5	67.24
Herring gull	2.90	6	25.86
Magpie	2.58	7	77.59
Carriion crow	2.45	8	63.79
Blue tit	2.25	9	77.59
Common gull	1.46	10	22.41

to explore the world around them and get close to nature, but Birdwatch gives them the green light to get to know wildlife, and each year they go for it with boundless enthusiasm."

Across the UK, almost 75,000 pupils and teachers took part in the survey, which showed that nationally starlings, song thrushes and gulls are being seen in much greater numbers in schoolgrounds.

Starlings and song thrushes, both species of the highest conservation concern due to massive

declines over the last four decades, were up by as much as a quarter on last year.

Several species of gull were also seen in much greater numbers compared to 2012.

Mr Fuller added: "It's wonderful to see this jump in numbers among garden birds like song thrushes and starlings. These are species that have suffered substantial losses over many years.

"It highlights the important role school-grounds and playing fields can have, not only as vital places for free play and active, healthier

children, but as homes for some of our most threatened wildlife."

Species that were seen less often in school-grounds this year included house sparrows and chaffinches.

Nationally, house sparrows have declined by more than 70 per cent since 1977, and slipped one place in the schools' top 10 this year to number six. Chaffinches were pushed down the ranking this year too, dropping out of the top 10 to number 11.



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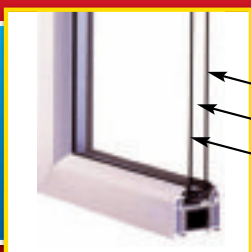
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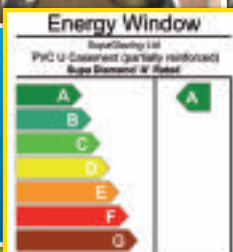
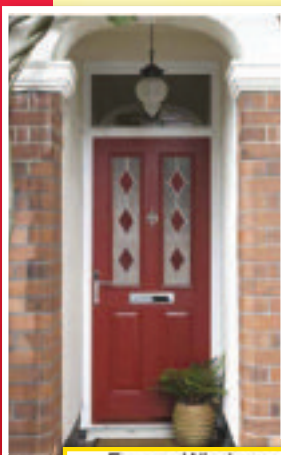
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News

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WELFARE

Protestors ready to make a stand as port hosts trial for live animal exports

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LIVE animal export protestors have vowed to picket Dover, after controversial proposals to move the trade they condemn as cruel, were mooted.

Barco de Vapor, operators of the MV Joline – the ship which has been transporting animals to mainland Europe – conducted a trial berthing at Dover this week with a view to the trade shifting from Ramsgate.

Although the trial proved ‘inconclusive’ on the first attempt, the operator says it intends to try again soon.

Protestors say the practice of transporting live animals for slaughter on the Continent is cruel and that they should be killed in the UK before being shipped out – what is referred to as “by hook not by hoof”.

Independent Thanet councillor Ian Driver, a leading member of the campaign group, told this newspaper: “This is disastrous news. Whenever live animals are treated like this, being cooped up in a lorry, and then put on a ship for a long sea crossing, it is totally unacceptable.

“We will now be wanting to work with the people of Dover to stop this trade once and for all. If they make their voices heard loud enough perhaps the courts can understand the public don’t want this trade. It is cruel.



ANGER: Protestors say the location of live animal exports is irrelevant and it should be stopped

“Moving to Dover will make no difference. It is still barbaric and should be halted from all British ports. It is outrageous this awful trade can happen against the wishes of the people.”

There have been angry scenes in Ramsgate where protestors confronted lorries bringing in animals. They were particularly angry that the animals were being put on such a long cross-Channel route in a boat, which they claim made the journey more unbearable for the creatures.

Dover – and Ramsgate before it – are both obliged to allow the legal trade to operate from

their sites and can do nothing to stop it.

Thanet council banned live exports from Ramsgate last year but the ban was later overturned by the High Court, despite widespread condemnation from both the public and politicians.

Charlie Elphicke, the MP for Dover, said: “We do not want live animal exports in Dover.

“It is bad for animal welfare and bad for the local economy. Farmers should sell their produce to the home market. Food we can trust and know it is what it claims to be.”

In a statement, Dover Harbour Board said: “Following some extensive modification by her owners, the MV Joline arrived at Dover to undertake a berthing trial.

“The purpose of the trial was to establish the feasibility of the vessel utilising the port’s large vehicle ferry berths in the Eastern Docks. The result was inconclusive but important information was obtained as to the precise adjustments that will need to be made in order for the ship to moor safely and securely in the berth and connect properly with the loading bridge.

“It is expected that the owner will arrange for further modifications to be made to the vessel which will then return again for further proving trials. The timetable for undertaking the work to the ship and the date for its return for a repeat trial is a matter for the owner to determine.

“Dover Harbour Board has not been advised of any further dates for the next trial.”



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EVENT

Remembering the legend of the silver screen in his home town

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

HE PORTRAYED some of the silver screen's most iconic characters, from Sherlock Holmes to Doctor Who, and made his name in the Hammer Horror movies with roles such as Baron Frankenstein and vampire hunter Dr Van Helsing.

Yet for all the scares and frights he portrayed on film, Peter Cushing was known as one of life's gentlemen – devoted to his wife, and in love with his adopted town of Whitstable.

And to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth, a special exhibition depicting his life launches next weekend at the town's museum.

It will feature a host of artefacts, from film stills and posters to examples of his artwork and even the pair of slippers he famously wore while filming Star Wars (see box).

It is hoped it will be a fitting tribute to a man who spent more than 40 years in the town and still regularly attracts visitors to come and see his seafront home and sit on the seat he donated to the town at Cushing's View – the spot he loved to sit at and watch the tides come and go.

He first moved to Whitstable with his wife Helen – to whom he was devoted until her death in 1971 – in the 1950s. So crushed was he by her passing, he admitted part of him died too. Yet he remained in the town until his death, from



POPULAR: Peter Cushing loved Whitstable

cancer, at a Canterbury hospice in 1994.

Joyce Broughton was Mr Cushing's secretary for 35 years and the pair became good friends.

The 79-year-old said: "It was a temporary job that ended up lasting 35 years. I started with him in 1959. My friend worked for him and she went abroad so he needed a new secretary. I said I would do it as a temporary job because I wanted children. He said he didn't mind how many children I had, he would work round it. And bless his heart, he did."

Mrs Broughton took care of Mr Cushing's accounts and fan mail and many of the artefacts in the exhibition come from her private collection.

She added: "It was an honour to work for him, but I wasn't star struck. Perhaps that's why he liked me, because I didn't coo at him."

"I did the work and I respected him and became very fond of him. In fact I sat with him during the last 10 days of his life in the hospice. We had a good relationship. He was a super person, genuine, kind, considerate and lovely."

The actor, who appeared in 91 films – perhaps most famously the Hammer movies alongside Christopher Lee (who became his greatest friend) and Vincent Price, in the likes of Dracula and The Curse of Frankenstein – was protected by the townsfolk of Whitstable.

Mrs Broughton added: "He loved Whitstable because people treated him ordinarily. He was a

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STAR WARS

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What few realise is that as he outranked Darth Vader and made a captive Princess Leia squeal, he was padding around the deck of the space station in a pair of slippers.

Because when Peter Cushing portrayed the character in the 1977 Star Wars original he did so in footwear which was rather more comfortable than the boots the wardrobe department had assigned to him – but were too small for his size 12 feet. Instead it was agreed the close-up shots would allow him to wear slippers. Those very slippers form part of the exhibition.

Not a big fan of science fiction, he saw the huge potential in Star Wars and originally auditioned for the role of Obi Wan Kenobi. Commitments on other films, however, meant that role went to Alec Guinness, the only other recognised actor when the film was released. However, due to his fame, Mr Cushing received a daily payment of some £2,000 – four times the amount Harrison Ford earned in a week portraying Han Solo.

Yet while Mr Cushing was the evil chief, he proved so popular with the cast, it presented some problems. Carrie Fisher, aka Princess Leia, admitted she was so fond of the actor she had to think of someone else to give the impression she hated him. As for her famous line that she “recognised his foul stench” she said he actually smelt of “linen and lavender”.



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News

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TECHNOLOGY

Superfast broadband takes a major leap forward as BT signs up to partnership

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A MAJOR breakthrough in the county's digital future has been made with the upcoming launch of one of the biggest infrastructure projects in Kent's history – bringing faster broadband to all. Hundreds of miles of fibre will start to be in-

stalled over the next two years, following the announcement of a partnership between Kent County Council and BT which will see the roll-out of high speed broadband countywide.

It forms part of Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), a groundbreaking scheme aimed at providing superfast services to most of the population by 2015 using public and private finance.

Kent's £40 million scheme – funded by £10m from KCC, £9.87m from central Government and £19.6m from BT – will deliver higher speeds to 95 per cent of properties in Kent, with 91 per cent of those superfast, meaning speeds of 24mbps and above; fast enough to download a film in around 15 minutes.

Those unable to access high speeds through the new infrastructure will still have access to at least 2mbps – a film download speed of approximately three or four hours.

The improvement is expected to boost the county's economy by £1.5 billion every year.

Kent and Medway's BDUK project follows KCC's Make Kent Quicker campaign which was launched to see how much need there was for faster services. Some 18,000 residents and businesses signed up, many from rural areas where there is either extremely slow or non-existent broadband connections.

Cabinet member for business strategy, performance and health reform, Roger Gough, said the roll-out of higher speed services will start as soon as next year, helping to bring communities up to speed, adding: "We are moving fast with this project. We're in the group of those councils in the forefront. There will be a lot of major work going on to fit this infrastructure over the next two years. While there may be some disruption it's very much for a long term gain.

"Some people will be able to access faster

broadband from next year – although I can't say which areas yet – with the remainder in 2015.

"What we'll also be working on is how the county makes the best use of these services. How do we prepare? How can businesses use it? How can communities benefit from it? We're looking for ways to make sure people take advantage."

Clr Gough said problems regarding state aid approval had been resolved and the project was moving ahead swiftly.

"This is great news and marks the start of a large-scale infrastructure project, which is about making sure no one misses out on broadband," he added. "Just as the miles of rail and roads are essential in bringing the county together, this is an essential network for Kent."

Medway Council's portfolio holder for strategic planning and economic development, Jane Chitty, said the project would ensure the county is "connected and competitive" for the future.

Surveyors will be making their way across the county during the rest of this year, with miles and miles of fibre installed in 2014 and 2015.

BT's managing director for next generation access, Bill Murphy, said: "This will enable more local businesses to think global as well as enhancing education and transforming the way consumers use the internet.

"This is a fantastic achievement for Kent and will position the county as a broadband leader – and ahead of the chasing pack."



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News

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FUNDING

Racing to build skatepark

KAREN Seymour will be putting her best foot forward in the Canterbury 10k this weekend in order to raise money for the Sittingbourne Skatepark Fund.

She will compete in Sunday's race with all monies raised going

towards the fund set up by a group of ten 15 to 22-year-olds in order to help fund the construction of a skatepark in Sittingbourne. The group has been raising cash since October 2011. The Canterbury 10k starts in Chartham.

CRIME

Fly-tippers to be hunted down in fresh push to stop dumping

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A MAJOR crackdown on fly-tipping on Sheppey has been launched by environmental officers.

Swale Borough Council's environmental response team will now be patrolling the streets of Sheerness with new crime labels to notify residents that the council has been made aware of rubbish dumped in and around the town.

The labels will appeal for information to find those responsible.

Residents in Sheerness have complained to the council recently about fly-tipping in alleyways in Marine Town, and wardens say they have picked up their patrols in the area.

However, they are still finding people dumping black sacks full of rubbish or bigger items such as mattresses and white goods.

The council's environmental enforcement officer, Julie Badcock, made an appeal for residents to play their part in clearing up the problem: "Put your bins or bin bags out at the right time for collection. Do not dump household waste in the alleyways.

"If you forget to put your bins out at the right time, take your household waste to the Sheerness tip. The alleys are there for the use, enjoyment and safety of all residents.

"We are determined to tackle the issue and will prosecute anyone found fly-tipping."



Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and if convicted can lead to a fine of up to £50,000 and/or six months in prison.

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KENT REMEMBERED



Full steam ahead for a day by the seaside

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

ONCE upon a time, the seaside resorts of the county were alive to the sounds of paddle steamers cruising the coastline, delivering a steady diet of excited holidaymakers and daytrippers from London.

But today the trade has long since died off and the paddle steamer industry has become little more than a heritage attraction.

Yet its history is rich. Services began in 1820 with ships such as the Waverley connecting the capital with Gravesend during the summer months.

Today, the Waverley remains the world's last remaining sea-going paddle-steamer – a sure sign of the mode of transport's decline.

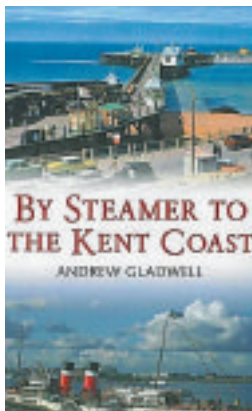
Now a book looks back on the golden age during the Victorian period, as *By Steamer to the Kent Coast*, examines how the industry developed.

It is penned by Gravesend-based author Andrew Gladwell, who has impeccable credentials as archivist for the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society.

When services first started, seaside resorts were small and began to grow a few years later before they reached their opulent peak in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Early steamers were small and lacked much of the comforts of later years, while the piers they berthed at were also small and without adornment.

But as the idea of a steamer trip grew in popularity piers became longer, in order to cope



GOLDEN AGE: When paddle steamers cruised our coast

with the larger vessels which were being bought into the trade.

A day out at Margate, Ramsgate or Herne Bay became an affordable and popular option for the working Londoner and so piers started to add pavilions and theatres to their length. Seaside amusements sprang up too, as resorts competed to attract visitors.

The steamers themselves also became more elaborate with saloons offering the chance to dine, in addition to bars. Passengers were segregated; those who paid the most had the best views and seating areas while others were in fairly confined spaces.

Gravesend became popular as it was so easily accessible from London, but Margate soon became one of the most fashionable places to spend a

day. Its Dreamland amusement park grew as well, with rides bearing names such as the Dig Dipper and Racing Coaster. The sandy beach was another great draw for visitors.

Ramsgate and its beach was another destination, while Deal and Herne Bay were smaller. Travelling further by sea was also becoming an option, as France was in easy reach.

The early part of the 20th century saw more trade coming Kent's way and in the 1920s and 30s the resorts were at their peak of popularity.

But during the Second World War many ships were pressed into service with one, the Medway Queen, performing heroics in rescuing soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk.

After peace came in 1945 the fleet was back to strength – but as the decades passed the attraction of the Kent resorts lost out to cheap foreign travel.

In 1966 the General Steam Navigation Company – one of the foremost in the UK – withdrew three large vessels from service. First to go was the Royal Daffodil, followed by the Queen of the Channel and the Royal Sovereign.

Winter storms in the late 1970s damaged the piers at Margate and Herne Bay but the industry was not dead.

Intermittent trips were staged and last year the Waverley completed a full season of trips in the summer months.

A similar programme is planned for this year with the vessel now recognised as the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world.

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OPINION

Buying local adds up in the end

Edwyn Martin, of food and drink champions Produced in Kent, feels the horsemeat scandal highlights why we should source locally grown food

THE horsemeat scandal has encouraged all of us to consider more closely what we eat, where we eat it, how much we eat and where we get it from.

Buying cheap is not the same as giving the customer value for money.

Local food and drink makes a significant contribution to local economies, encourages diversification, creates jobs and contributes to landscape conservation.

Research carried out by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) estimated that for every £1 spent locally on local food, £2.50 was generated for the local economy.

This was significantly more than the £1.40 generated when £1 was spent in the local supermarket.

The local and immediate 'trickle-down' effect is clear.

Money gets spent with local suppliers and services, and farmers and landowners rein-

vest in their farms and conservation, often offering additional services such as bed and breakfast and other value added products.

Keeping trade local – where feasible – has at its heart the recognition money spent with local businesses stays in the local economy. This is what the NEF has termed the positive 'multiplier effect'.

A fundamental issue in the promotion and marketing of local food is the 'multiplier effect'.

In simple terms, money spent locally is recycled within the local economy and multiplies its value.

Equally, money can leak out of the local area.

In the case of food, the effect is clearly apparent among major retailers such as the dominant four supermarkets where leakage is rife.

The biggest issue for local food producers is often price or price perception; local produce

is purchased within a smaller economy of scale.

But set against that is being able to communicate the origin of the food through good branding, professional packaging and labelling which adds value and helps to overcome any 'price barrier' – real or otherwise.

Consumers want to trust their food supplier and that trust has clearly been broken by the supermarkets in the recent scandal.

When we heard of the short-fall in olive oil last week and the predicted price hike amongst major supermarkets following the failure of the Spanish crop last year, it becomes apparent that even price is not always the issue and that the Garden of England can often offer very real, locally grown, traceable (and delicious) alternatives such as rape seed oil.

There is a risk with local food that the essential message can be lost along the way or con-



6699

There is a risk with local food the essential message can be lost along the way

fused with other messages.

Local food should not and does not automatically mean 'organic' or 'sourced within 30 miles'.

The horsemeat scandal has shown us that it is not so much about the distance the food has travelled, as the point and nature of origin with clear traceability and provenance.

The extraordinary standards now being met by local producers was demonstrated this month at the Taste of Kent Awards, which recognised and celebrated the outstanding food and drink producers in our county that have not only achieved an award through a select panel of experts, but have won the public vote of confidence.

And surely, when we are talking about what we put into our bodies, public confidence is one of the most important considerations of all.

■ **Edwyn Martin** is manager at Produced in Kent.

KOS COMMENT

D-day looms for local plans to be fighting fit

IT CAN be easy to sometimes switch off when reading about council long-term strategies; to feel that it doesn't involve you, or that there's no influence you can bring to bear.

But the very real threat posed by failure to submit fully compliant local plans to match the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, could have major repercussions to the areas in which we each live and work.

Gone will be the opportunity to sculpt the way our landscapes – urban or rural – look ourselves, and instead Whitehall will dictate.

It is, therefore, essential we all engage in this situation and ensure delay does not take power from those who know best – those that live here.

Did city miss a trick?

AS ROME opened its arms to huge crowds for the inauguration of the Pope, they were positively deterred from entering Canterbury this week for the archbishop's enthronement.

Could big screens, big crowds and a celebratory mood not have benefited the city and its struggling traders?

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**Westgate
Towers in
Canterbury**
by Alan
Blackburn



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Drivers will
cop the lot

READER David Harris is right with his views on shared space and 'blame the driver' culture that is getting more prevalent.

We are going to see many more roads given over to shared space-type 20mph speed limits to encourage children to use as playgrounds, walkways for pedestrians that do not want to use the footpaths, and cyclists to do whatever they like.

But when an accident occurs, it will be the driving licence holder to blame.

In London, which paves the way to most traffic legislation, there are already groups that want all HGV drivers to be fully trained in 'cycle awareness' so immediately putting the onus on the driver and not the stupid cyclist that rides up the inside of a truck and gets knocked off.

Terry Hudson, Swalecliffe

Time to hunt
cunning fox

I READ with disbelief the letter Vivien Clifford wrote (KoS Letters, 10/03).

What planet is this person on – and why does she allege the mothers of the children attacked by foxes are lying?

These animals are killers and if she is not careful she will find them in her house, especially if she has a cat flap, as they are adept at foraging for food.

As for feeding them, I am aghast at the ignorance of this person; the reason for the influx of foxes in urban environments is that people feed them.

They are an animal of the country, plain and simple.

When I was a child living in Wiltshire, my father found that a pen of his laying poultry had been killed by a fox, who had chewed their heads off through the wire netting in

which they were fenced.

Foxes are a cunning animal and I have seen at first hand how they can escape a hunt, so please don't tell me I don't know what I am talking about.

I say bring back fox-hunting – and please stop feeding them.

Isabel Kember, Dover

Perspective is
what's needed

OFFICIALS estimate 210,000 people are attacked by dogs every year, yet we hear no hysterical calls for dogs to be culled.

Fox attacks are very rare, so let's keep things in perspective.

I find it strange that a fox can gain access to a house in mid-winter.

Are people leaving their doors and windows open? Do they have no idea what, or who, is going into their houses? Are they jumping on a bandwagon to save the family pet, who had a moment's madness?

There are people who won't be satisfied until every fox, badger, deer and other sentient creatures that offend their sad lives, are totally eliminated, when it's the most dangerous creature of all, us humans, that needs controlling.

Phil Granger, West Malling

We must stop
'bedroom tax'

MANY people will be badly effected badly by the Government's capping of benefits and the 'bedroom tax' which comes into effect in April.

As a result of these policies many families will be forced out of their present homes and made to move to areas where there is cheaper accommodation or where they can find smaller housing units.

Not only will they have to move away from family, friends and local support, but their children will be forced out of the schools

where they are settled.

If you are as appalled as we are by these harsh measures, make your protest now by writing to the Prime Minister, David Cameron, and your MP.

However, don't expect much from Dartford MP Gareth Johnson.

His view, expressed to us in a letter last year, was that those subject to the benefits caps were "people who refuse to work" and he was "disappointed" child benefit was not included in the cap.

Ron and Sylvia Kipps, Dartford

Benefits are
of no benefit

THE UK is in an impossible financial situation.

Taxes are in sharp decline while welfare payments are continuing to increase, therefore offering no chance of balancing the budget or even lowering national debt without root-and-branch

reform of our welfare state.

For too long politicians have failed to reform our womb to tomb benefit system.

Voters cannot have missed Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark currently spinning the idea that more local decision-making and spending might accomplish what national politicians have failed to do – stimulate the economy and increase business.

The fact is stimulation cannot be manufactured by politicians.

Edward La Coste, Lamberhurst

Help us tackle
diabetes hell

I AM writing to let your readers know many children with health conditions such as Type 1 diabetes are not getting the care or support they need to manage their condition in school.

One million schoolchildren have a health condition, including 29,000 suffering from diabetes.

We know children with diabetes can be excluded from school activities like PE, denied places on school trips, and refused help with injecting, so forcing their parents to go into school.

This means they are not able to fully achieve their academic potential and enjoy as normal a childhood as possible.

These children have been completely forgotten and the 2013 Children's and Families Bill, which proposes the biggest shake-up to special education needs provision for a generation, fails to ensure they get the support they need to fully participate in school.

This is why Diabetes UK is calling for schools to have a statutory duty to provide support for children with diabetes and other health conditions.

We would like parents and carers of children with Type 1 diabetes in Kent to tell us about their experiences of diabetes care in schools so we can share their experiences with MPs and ministers and ensure their voices are heard and their children are not forgotten.

If readers would like to get involved they can contact Diabetes Voices on 020 7424 1008 or email diabetesvoices@diabetes.org.uk

Jill Steaton, regional manager of Diabetes UK, South East

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ABBY is a passionate sexy girl seeking some fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 373603

FEMALE young 60, petite, outgoing, sociable, looking for someone special to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403423

JACQUELINE widow, 82, easy-going, not ugly or neurotic, good listener, caring, loyal, seeks gent, 60-80 for conversation, company and outings. Sevenoaks, car driver. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403397

SHARON 37yr old size 10 attractive feminine blonde, divorced with OHAC, seeks nice male who like me is fed up with being on their own. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403351

KATHY genuine good/young looking lovely female, fit with good figure, seeking man to fall in love with, enjoy adult companionship and happy times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403349

CAROL, discreet, married, 47yrs seeking man for fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400499

VICKY petite size 16, attractive, caring, genuine and very much single, likes varied interests, WLTm kind genuine N/S male 40-55yrs for dates hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403343

LOUISE blue eyed pretty brunette, size 12, OHAC, professional, enjoys good conversation, looking for someone to make me happy again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403335

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for not committed relationship, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761

CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011

LADY 57, away with the fairies, looking for her wizard and enchantment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403093

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071

JAYNE 44 bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to be for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country lady looking with no ties, OHAC WLTm n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curly, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTm loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for not married, committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/books/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779

LIZ blonde blue eyed curly female, considered attractive, tactile, sensual, enjoys music, entertaining, nice people, seeking well educated professional 50-60yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402773

JO 29 tall slim female who loves soaps, animals, shopping, being a mum and am looking for 40's male with GSOH who will appreciate a tactile, loving female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402765

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523

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REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797

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HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTm similar aged nice male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391

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70YRS young male, good looking, GSOH, seeking lady for love and affection. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403455

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211

EASY-GOING guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097

PRETTY petite lady sought by older, professional businessman, looking for LTR and loyalty. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394530

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057

LORRANE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401

PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394294

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship, West Sussex area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401

THANET male, smart, young, mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401399

CHRIS 51, looking for young female, 25-42, white, slim, N/S for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401395

SLIM 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, independent, sociable, easygoing, enjoys usual, seeks honest lady to share it all with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401245

ROBERT medium build, single, seeks nice, attractive, busty female with sexy clothes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402597

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402531

BLACK British male, African descent, medium build, varied interests, understanding, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402641

BLACK male, 50, bubbly personality, seeks buxom, pear shaped, rubinesque white female, 25-55 for friendship, possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402887

TONY 50, likes nights in/out, football, fishing, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394506

BRIAN fun loving, happy go lucky, likes walks, animals, cuddles, nights in/out, seeking loving, caring female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402729

BLACK British male, African descent, medium build, varied interests, understanding, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402641

ROBERT medium build, single, seeks nice, attractive, busty female with sexy clothes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402597

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402531



YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402499

AARON 35, no ties, 5ft 9ins, clean shaven, attractive, Italian background, chef, down to earth, open minded, likes meals out, weekends away, socialising, cinema, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402497

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401897

AVERAGE male, 50's, large build, broadminded, OHAC, GSOH, naturist novice, smoker, seeks petite/medium build lady for relationship. Must be uninhibited, broadminded and mature. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401887

PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394294

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531

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ASIAN female, wants chats with white man. Interested to learn English ways. Text INDP 204765 to 66888

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JASMINE, exotic beauty, text me what you like and I will text back. Text INDP 204668 to 66888

BIG is best, cuddly lady seeks skinny men. Call, whatever you look like, how will I know! Text INDP 205069 to 66888

SUE, sporty and fun , why not chat with me. Text INDP 205455 to 66888

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SENSITVIE, romantic lady seeks a compassionate man to swap texts with. I have a good ear and happy to listen. Text INDP 205422 to 66888

LINDSEY, available to chat, send her a text. She promises to text everyone back. Text INDP 205034 to 66888

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Inside this week

Food & Drink

27

Restaurant Review

In the place of a Little Chef comes something way hotter
Why golfers at one club are on course for something special

Leisure

24, 28-30

Massive grant sparks a bigger street festival
There's never been a better time to write



Business Week

31-33

The joy of George?

Osborne Budget cheers the county's small businesses
The stress of work that can lead to the worst conclusion of all

Driving

39-54

Fiat sprinkles a little of the 500 stardust on its five-door MPV
Main Dealer Servicing
The history lesson that will never bore any motorist

By DAVE MAIRS

HIS children eat spaghetti hoops, he defends supermarkets, he eats McDonald's and he has no time for food snobs. Kent celebrity chef Mark Sargeant offers a refreshingly open attitude to food and you get the distinct impression that the straight talking is not done for effect or solely to raise eyebrows.

It is simply what you would expect from someone who spent 13 years with sewer-mouthed celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay, although I should stress that, during my time with him at his Folkestone restaurant Rocksalt, his language was largely restrained.

His reputation was established during his eight years as head chef at Claridge's main restaurant, run, of course, by Ramsay.

Sargeant took the Chef of the Year title in 2002, the same year his efforts at Claridge's were rewarded with a Michelin star.

Eventually, though, his home county beckoned. Born in Pembury and brought up in West Malling, he took on the role of creative director with The Swan Collective, which runs The Swan in West Malling, before setting out on his first genuinely solo venture: Rocksalt in Folkestone.

'Folkestone is home for me now. I never planned to be here, but I'm so glad I am.'

The setting by the harbour could be interpreted by the town's PR merchants in all manner of slavering prose, but it took a while to convince Sargeant.

"Folkestone was never a place I came to visit when I was younger – it wasn't on my radar. And when I visited to look around the town, my first reaction was 'Ugh!'... but I fell in love with it.

"People in Folkestone are so proud to be Folkestonians. The Orient Express used to be here... there's the Edwardian architecture.

"It was terribly bombed in the war. There's a Battle of Britain airfield at Hawkinge – this was a hot area. Then a lot of the rebuilding was done in the 50s, when there wasn't much money."

As he gathers momentum, there's barely any stopping him...

"You're 50 minutes from London. You can get a five-bedroom family home for £270,000 – try finding one of those in London for under £2 million.

"I know five or six people who lived in London all their lives and moved here. Look at the life – you can get down to the sea at weekends, you can be home by six o'clock on weekday evenings.

"This is home for me now. I never planned to be here, but I'm so glad I am.



Cook something simple, says our Michelin man

After working at the top table of English cuisine, Kent boy Mark Sargeant is back in his home county... and loving it

My girlfriend's from Bromley and she feels the same.

"It's very arty here. Look at Whitstable, or Margate. The whole of the Kent coast is rising. This place I see as the new Brighton."

Maybe, but in truth the area around Folkestone harbour is still awaiting the turn of the economic tide and you can but wonder if Rocksalt would be better served in a more salubrious position.

Happily, Sargeant sees no problem.

"The whole harbour is going to be re-

developed. There won't just be one place to eat – the more the better."

Fine concept, but will it really work? "It has to."

The optimism has clearly been sparked, at least in part, by the Rocksalt experience thus far.

"Brilliant! Amazing! There are always ups and downs, but we've been so well received by the locals. Even in the autumn and winter months, we've been busier than we expected. We've smashed it in terms of covers."

These can top 200 on a Sunday in the summer, while even in the autumn a Sunday lunchtime might see 180. But it's perhaps the off-the-cuff 'statistic' of 95-96 covers on, say, an October Tuesday that bears greater testament to the triumph of Rocksalt. He hadn't expected more than 55 or so at such times.

A well-priced lunch menu alongside the à la carte has helped, although Sargeant points out that restaurants rarely, if ever, make money in their first few years.

"There are so many things to consider before serving a meal... laundry, staff, lighting costs and so on. There's no handbook to opening a restaurant and making money."

He did make a couple of headlines when slipping into Ramsay-type language following the loss of the Michelin star at Read's restaurant, near Faversham, where he himself once worked. With the passage of time, he is less inflamed than previously but still wholly loyal to the Read's cause.

"They both worked so hard there and accomplished so much, it would be nice to see them retire with one [a star]."

When I mention that some acquaintances had reported a poor experience at Read's, he says: "Everyone has off-days. That's what restaurants are all about – you're always trying to better your last experience."

Another thriving restaurant on Sargeant's radar is The Marquis at Alkham, not least because he is renting a property in the village (although he is looking to move to Folkestone).

He says there's a "friendly rivalry" with The Marquis and that he's "right behind it".

'There are always ups and downs but we've been so well received by locals.'

"It's nice to be included with those guys," he said. "It's better to be with them than against them – there are few enough good restaurants down here."

If you think you detect a hint of elitism in that last remark, you'd be wrong. For someone at home in the rarefied world of high cuisine, he has a markedly down-to-earth outlook.

"Food snobs are my worst enemies. I've got a family – I'm realistic and my children eat spaghetti hoops, like any kid. I eat McDonald's, like anyone else. I'm only human. The way they do meat is not bad any more. A balanced diet is the important thing."

He is similarly forgiving of supermarkets: "People say they're the devil's work, but how else are you going to feed people? And you can't get nappies at farmers' markets.

"In supermarkets you can buy well – they're waking up to buying British."

Continued on page 25

Weekender

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features@kosmedia.co.uk

Are you the most talented in Kent? Then prove it...

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

A NEW talent competition is giving the county's greatest entertainers the chance to be crowned the Kent Factor champion.

The free talent contest has been created to give people of all ages and abilities the chance to perform to a live audience at the Britannia Theatre at Dickens World in Chatham.

The competition is open to performers of all ages and disciplines, from singers, dancers, actors, jugglers, comedians and magicians to... well, over to you!

You can show off your talents at one of the 15 dates throughout April, May, June and July.

A panel of industry-professional judges will provide feedback for the 20 performers at each show, with only one act from each week being voted through to the final by the audience. They will then compete to win a first prize of £5,000, second prize of £2,000 and third of £1,000.

If you're interested in taking part, apply by completing the online application form at www.britanniatheatrechatham.co.uk by Sunday, July 7, but early application is recommended. All entrants will be asked to send a recorded audition.

Entry to watch the live shows is £3, or £2.50



A PERFECT SETTING: The Kent Factor contest will take place in the stunning Britannia Theatre

for family and friends of acts. Doors open at 7pm, with the show starting at 9pm.

The first show is on Sunday, April 7, running until Sunday, July 14. For more information and the full list of dates, phone 0844 858 6660.

FAB FOUR



The Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Sunday, March 31-Monday, April 1
Phone: 01634 823815

Website: www.thedockyard.co.uk

Medway Festival of Steam & Transport: Enjoy the sights, sounds and smell of steam and traction engines at the dockyard. The event includes live music and more. Tickets £13.



Powell-Cotton Museum, Birchington
Friday, March 29, 10am-4pm
Phone: 01843 842168

Website: www.quexmuseum.org

I Love Vintage Fair: Vintage-style fair, with stalls selling clothes, household gifts, jewellery, cards and more. Enjoy high tea in the Mama Feelgoods vintage café. Entry £3 adults.



The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Wednesday, March 27, 7.30pm
Box office: 01227 787787

Website: www.marlowetheatre.com

The Hollies: Watch the 1960s legends perform their raft of hits in the main auditorium; these include The Air That I Breathe and He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother. Tickets £26.50.



Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Wednesday, March 27, 7.30pm
Box office: 0844 871 3015

Website: www.atgtickets.com

Joe Brown in Concert: Joe and his five-piece band including son and producer Pete Brown will be performing his timeless classics in this eclectic show. Tickets £27.

Historic setting allows audience to engage with Passion Play



TONBRIDGE is hosting an open-air community Passion Play at Easter.

More than 100 people will be involved on Good Friday, March 29, at Tonbridge Castle for the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus, played by former Hugh Christie Technology College student Tom Holland, from Tunbridge Wells, will lead a donkey called Guinness, with

the cast following through the castle gateway, where he will be greeted by children.

The actors have been rehearsing all year at Tonbridge Baptist Church, braving rain, snow and freezing temperatures.

The procession starts at St Peter and St Paul Church at 10.20am, proceeding to Tonbridge Castle for 10.30am and finishing at 11.45am.

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features@kosmedia.co.uk

The man making Folkestone his first resort

Continued from page 23

More surprisingly, perhaps, the accent on the straightforward, the functional even, is a feature of Sargeant's culinary ethos and he is keen not to get swamped in convoluted menus.

"Because of my heritage, people expect me to do more exciting food, but I like simple, even though my background is Michelin.

"I get very, very frustrated with food these days. I was one of the judges for The National Chef of the Year – seven of the nine chefs used a water bath to cook their meat and there was not one piece of meat that was cooked properly.

"Too many chefs are copying without learning to cook properly. Cooking techniques have stayed for a reason."

He's at the stage of his career where he doesn't need to slave away in a swelteringly-hot kitchen, so it's now a case of the expertise being passed on to his practitioners.

"I don't cook in the kitchen here. It's my style, my menu, and I work with the chefs, but this is not Restaurant Mark Sargeant or Rocksalt Mark Sargeant. I'm a restaurateur now – I do lots of consultancy work. It's important to get my name out there.

"I can't be here all the time and I can't pretend that to customers who expect me to be here. It's my staff who have made this place so good."

There were one or two negative reviews at the very beginning, but any ire they might have provoked appears to have calmed.

"All the reviewers bar one came to visit us in the first two weeks. There were a lot of positives – some negatives.

"I do respect critics, but they should leave you to bed in a bit. They say it's not like that and that everyone's paying – but it is like that, and everyone knows it's like that.

They say 'Give us [the restaurant] time...'. Well, give us some ***** time then!"

And for those of you who like to share your views on life, the universe and everything but fear your words simply disappear into cyberspace, Sargeant's response to one internet blogger might, perversely, give you reason for cheer. "It was a blogger writing about our Dover sole. I went mad – he just didn't get it. Minted Jersey potatoes and asparagus were in season..."

Sargeant's big on tradition, but mention this country's one-time struggle to be taken seriously as a culinary player and he takes it up a notch: "Try having a world war and see what happens – two world wars knocks the wind out of your sails. There was food rationing and the hang-over went into the 60s. Then we went through a huge increase in population – there was a need to feed these people.

"This country now has a great dining quality – customers aren't settling for second best."

Bring the situation to county level and it's apparent that – at long last, some might say –

Kent's dining experience is on an upward curve.

Mark Sargeant's venture in Folkestone is an important part of that, but does he have greater plans? There's already The Smokehouse – "our chippy", or a fish restaurant if you prefer – just a few yards from Rocksalt, while he nurtures the idea of a family pub.

"We're still not properly established. You see the booking sheet and the number of 'first-time diners' is still high. The Smokehouse has great branding potential – we need to make sure the brand stays good. There's only ever one Rocksalt, though – it's unique."

The association between restaurateur Rick Stein and Padstow ('Padstein') in Cornwall has been richly and widely celebrated, a fact not lost on Folkestone's biggest fan: "I want to make this town the new Padstow. FolkSarge? FolkMark?"

Not quite, perhaps, but there's the core of something good here. We can only wait and see if the town itself can rise to a wider challenge.

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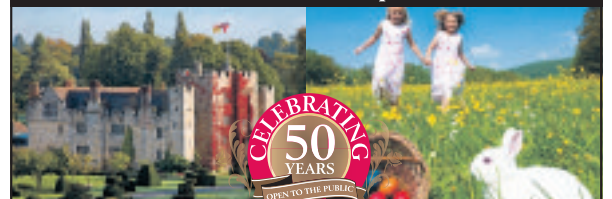


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Barbara Freeman

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£119^{pp}



Suffolk Coast
Fri 28 Jun, 2013
Quote MM6-KOS

We're taking a trip down memory lane at Pontins Pakefield with a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment including a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba and 70s tribute bands, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun.

Pontins Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Good News Holidays is booking the whole resort again to bring you these great value themed party breaks for over 40s ONLY. Enjoy entertainment every night and day, PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. Breakfasts & dinners are included in the self service cafeteria restaurant. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels.

ALL PAKEFIELD BREAKS INCLUDE: 99p drinks from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

LAS VEGAS LEGENDS SEASIDE PARTY

3 NIGHTS
HALF BOARD+
99p BAR
£109^{pp}



Suffolk Coast
Fri 4 Oct, 2013
Quote PL10-KOS

The Rat Pack and an endless list of world famous stars have made Las Vegas the entertainment capital of the world. We're bringing a taste of Vegas fun to Pontins Pakefield with great variety entertainment including tribute acts, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun.

GREASE & SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER CHRISTMAS PARTY

3 NIGHTS
HALF BOARD+
£1.50p BAR
£175^{pp}



Hayling Island
Fri 22 Nov, 2013
Quote MR11-KOS

We had a great Christmas Party at Mill Rythe resort on Hayling Island in 2012, so we're doing it all again with great variety entertainment including a Grease movie screening and tribute show, Bee Gees & 70s hits with a tribute to Staying Alive, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun from quizzes to films. Plus there's a £1.50 Bar from 6pm to midnight every night, and the Good News Holidays team onsite.

INCLUDED: £1.50 drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

M & SUPER 70s MAMMA MIA CHRISTMAS PARTY

3 NIGHTS
HALF BOARD+
FREE BAR
£219^{pp}



Isle of Wight
Fri 29 Nov, 2013
Quote NO11-KOS

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, Free Car Ferry and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, at Yarmouth Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party venue ever. This Christmas we're featuring a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba and 70s tribute bands, a fancy dress party and a host of festive and nostalgic fun from quizzes to films. Plus there's a Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Return car ferry worth £45

Escorted Rail Holidays

Escorted throughout

Excursions Included

Riviera of Flowers Monaco & Portofino

Escorted Holiday by Rail

This super holiday taking in the French & Italian Rivas, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras before taking an afternoon Eurostar to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice then to Italy's Riviera of Flowers. Enjoy free drinks every night at the hotel and excursions to Monaco, Eze, Portofino & Dolceacqua.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille • 5 or 6 nights in Diano Marina - half board plus free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night • All excursions • Transfers abroad



7 TO 8 DAYS
SEMI ALL
INCLUSIVE
FROM
£749^{pp}

14 April, 1 June,
15, 19 & 25 Sept,
12 Oct, 2013
Quote RF-KOS

Highlands, Orkney & Shetland Twilight

Escorted Rail-to-Mini-Cruise

Scotland's Highlands and Islands are magical, particularly in mid-summer when you can witness Shetland's 'simmer dim' or twilight at midnight. With visits to Loch Ness, the Castle of Mey, John O'Groats, Orkney and a two night mini-cruise to Shetland, this is a unique, not to be missed holiday.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London Kings Cross • 1 night half-board at Carrbridge Hotel in the Highlands • 2 nights half-board at The Royal Hotel, Thurso • Ferry to Orkney & dinner in a local restaurant • 2 night cruise to Shetland with 2 breakfasts & 1 dinner • Guided tours of Orkney & Shetland • Transfers & touring



6 DAYS
HALF BOARD
£899^{pp}

1 June
2013
Quote
OS6-KOS

Tuscany Coast & Country Explorer

Escorted Holiday by Rail

Tuscany is rightly famed for its rolling hills, historic towns & cities all bathed in a marvellous temperate climate. Our tour includes visits to Siena, Florence, Montecatini, Forte di Marmi, Pisa and Lucca with time to enjoy their magic.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris • 7 nights half board at the Hotel Panoramic in Montecatini Terme PLUS Tea/coffee with dinner & Free bar between 19.00 and 22.00hrs each evening (selected house brands) • 1 night hotel B&B on the Italian Riviera en-route home • Transfers & touring abroad



10 DAYS
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INCLUSIVE
£999^{pp}

2 Sept
2013
Quote
TT9-KOS

Three Countries Christmas Party River Cruise

Escorted Rail-Cruise

Join us for a relaxing river cruise taking-in Holland, Belgium & Germany and Christmas markets in Valkenburg & Aachen. Back by popular demand, the mps Princess - exclusively chartered again by us - will host you in comfort and style with almost everything on board included: beer, wine by the glass, Dutch spirits & soft drinks served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar - PLUS - breakfast, lunch, afternoon cakes, dinner, late snacks - PLUS - entertainment.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from St Pancras or Ebbsfleet • 4-night semi-all-inclusive cruise on the mps Princess • Outside, twin bed cabin with private facilities • Entertainment • Transfers abroad



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FROM
£479^{pp}

26 November
2013
Quote
XA11-KOS

Super Car Holidays

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Monaco

Supercars, Paris & the Cote d'Azur

Escorted Break by Rail, 5 days £639, 18 April 2013 - Quote MT4-KOS

Top Marques Monaco is a unique gathering of the world's top supercar manufacturers. From Bugatti to McLaren, get up close to these rare breeds in the seafont exhibition venue and on the principality's streets. The show utilises the Grand Prix circuit, part of which is closed to traffic for prospective buyers to experience a blood-pumping trial around the famous Rascasse corner, before driving through Casino Square.

Ferrari

Live the Dream in Maranello

Escorted by air from Gatwick, 4 days, £499, 25 April & 17 Oct 2013 - Quote FC4/10-KOS

Come with us to Maranello in Northern Italy - home to the most famous sports car maker in the world - Ferrari. Our 4-day tour takes in all the sights of Maranello - the Ferrari Museum, Fiorano Test Track, Enzo Ferrari Museum in Modena and more. No trip to Maranello would be complete without taking a Ferrari for a spin. Test drives are possible at extra cost with options to drive a range of models, including the new California.

Pau

Historic Grand Prix & Paris

Escorted Break by Rail, 5 days £749, 9 May 2013 - Quote HG5-KOS

Pau is home to the oldest city racing circuit in the world and scene of the first grand prix, in 1901. Located in the French region of Gascony, with views of the Pyrenees, this elegant town will host the fourth Grand Prix de Pau Historique this May - rated as one of the best historic meetings in the world. With a private champagne check-in at London St Pancras, swift rail travel and a night in Paris this unique break is not to be missed.

Monaco

Grand Prix Experience & Portofino

Escorted Holiday by Rail, 8 days, semi-all-inclusive, £899, 17 May 2013 - Quote GP5-KOS

Experience the glitz and glamour of Monaco at Grand Prix time and Italy's Portofino. The holiday begins with a Champagne check-in at London St Pancras, and the hospitality continues with free drinks every night at your hotel in Diano Marina on the Italy's Mediterranean coast. We include Grandstand tickets for the first practice day worth £65 (the same ticket on race day costs almost £400), with practice sessions for F1, GP2, F3 and Porsche Cup.

FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

A quality Indian venue that defies its roadside location

DO not be fooled by the exterior of Raj Bari. It does not sit in a picturesque location – despite being a stone's throw from the sea in Hythe – and from the outside it's clear that the building previously housed a Little Chef or some other restaurant with wipe-down plastic menus.

Flanked by a petrol station and on a busy road, it would be so easy to drive past and never venture foot inside.

But I've been told never to judge a book by its cover. I've also been told that this Indian and Bangladeshi restaurant is in fact very good. So I ventured forth, finding immediately that the plus side of being on such a site is the great parking facilities. No hunting for a pay-and-display machine for me!

With the Murco garage behind us, my guest and I walked in. It was a little how I imagined the children in *The Chronicles of Narnia* felt: they left a wardrobe to enter a snow-covered mystical land. Except for my guest and I, we left a petrol-station forecourt and found ourselves in a smart, inviting eatery, welcomed by a friendly waiter who led us to our table.

Smart blinds blocking the view of outside, candles and flowers on the tables, a warm and welcoming atmosphere and a glance at other diners'

RESTAURANT REVIEW



food told me I shouldn't worry this might just be a main-road café. It definitely wasn't.

It was also quite busy for a Tuesday night and more people arrived throughout our meal, suggesting this could have been a well-kept secret among the Hythe and Sandgate community.

The waiting staff were friendly and attentive, bringing us drinks and papadums while we looked at the menu.

I plumped for the prawn puri to start – a sweet-and-sour prawn curry on a crispy pancake-type bread – and my guest went for the onion bhaji.

My dish was delicious; it could perhaps have done with a little more heat, but it was tasty all the same. The chef hadn't scrimped on ingredients, either, and I had a hefty mouthful of prawns with every bite. My guest's onion bhajis were fresh and tasty with enough heat – everything you would want from this traditional dish.

For the main course, I chose coconut rice and lamb pasanda – a curry cooked with fresh cream, almonds and cashew nuts – and my guest lime jeera rice, a chicken pathia – a sweet-and-sour curry in a thick sauce – and a keema naan. We ordered sag panir as a side order.

The generous portions from the previous course were perhaps our downfall, but the food was so delicious we managed to finish most of it.

There were no luminous yellow or red dishes so often seen in many other curry houses and we could taste the spices and different flavours of the ingredients with each mouthful.

As previously stated, don't be fooled by the exterior of Raj Bari. This smart restaurant with its tasty dishes and attentive staff prove you should never judge a book by its cover. Total bill: £41

Marijke Cox

■ **Raj Bari**
Seabrook Road, Hythe
(01303 268666 or 01303 266028)

Tudor Park bags best food with golf award

TUDOR Park scored a hole in one when it scooped the 'best presented and tastiest food in golf' award at a national ceremony.

In the past year, six mystery shoppers visited the Marriott Hotel and Country Club in Bearsted to sample the facilities including the 18-hole golf course and the menu in the Zest Bar.

The award was given by the 59Club at a ceremony held at The Belfry golf resort in Warwickshire. The club is a golf-analysis business that measures service at UK venues.

Tudor Park chief Fraser Liston said: "We are very lucky here at the Tudor Park to have a first-rate catering team, headed by executive head chef Tom Biddle."

Popular brasserie Kits Coty on the market

RENOWNED restaurant Kits Coty, on the outskirts of Maidstone, is up for sale.

The eatery, whose original building was erected in 1890, was a private house until its current owners refurbished it in 1984 and created a successful restaurant.

It is known as a formal restaurant offering French cuisine from a 95-cover seating area.

Andrew Moore from agency Christie + Co said: "They've established an enviable reputation for hospitality and good food. The owners are selling to downsize to a much smaller business before their retirement. It could be suitable for a variety of different cuisines."

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WWW.WAGGONATHALE.CO.UK 01634 400800
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Enjoy beauty among the trees at pinetum

BEDGEBURY National Pinetum is offering a free spring trail in April and May for visitors to enjoy the highlights that the forest has to offer.

Spring is the perfect time to visit the forest, with the colourful blooms of rhododendrons and azaleas lighting up the landscape. And with warmer weather hopefully on the way, the venue's Go Ape! activity centre will appeal.

There are many more attractions as well as kilometres of walking and cycling routes for the more adventurous visitor.

Entry is free, but there is a charge for parking, with all money raised being reinvested in improving the forest. See www.goape.co.uk and www.forestry.gov.uk/bedgebury for details.

The Clash... their story is now an audiobook

A BOOK about The Clash, which became a cult classic 15 years ago, has a new lease of life.

A Riot Of Our Own, Night And Day With The Clash by Johnny Green, of Whitstable, and Garry Barker, of Canterbury, has just come out as an audiobook read by Quadrophonia and EastEnders star Phil Daniels.

The book tells the story of the punk group in the 1970s was first published in 1997.

The audiobook, published by Talking Music, has been described as "a rip-roaring account from inside The Clash camp generation... an intimate and very funny listen".

It costs £12 from www.talkingmusic.com.

Funding lights the fuse for festival

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

AN arts festival in Medway has been given a huge boost with a grant of £100,000.

The Fuse Medway Festival, a free outdoor event, was given the money by the Arts Council. It is the second piece of the good news for the event, following the announcement of new artistic director Megan Donolley.

Originally from Australia, Donolley worked on a variety of artistic forms, including comedy, fashion, dance and theatre events, including Sydney's fringe and comedy festivals.

She will be bringing that experience and international flavour to the street festival Fuse.

More recently, she has worked in London, including community-art projects in Tower Hamlets and serving as co-director of Comica: London International Comics Festival.

She has also worked on public art events and national film and literature competitions and worked in contemporary music as an agent and music-festival producer.

"I'm thrilled to be working with the Fuse Medway Festival team on this vibrant and rapidly expanding festival," said Donolley.

"It is a really exciting mix of spectacular outdoor events, community participation, thought-provoking art and performance that is accessible to all – and free! I'm very much looking forward to getting to know the communities for whom it's created and taking it to the next level."

Howard Doe, Medway Council's portfolio holder for community services, said: "We're ex-



COLOUR AND SWIRL: Fuse Medway Festival offers a glorious mix of entertainment across the towns

remely grateful to Arts Council England for their generous grant, which enables us to bring some of the most innovative and high-quality street-arts events to Medway as well as give local artists and creative groups the opportunity to showcase their talents.

"We are also delighted to welcome Megan to the team."

Last year more than 200 artists took part in the three-day event across the Medway towns.

The festival takes place from Friday to Sunday, June 14-16. Visit www.fusefestival.org.uk.

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Men (and women) in tights get in the ring

CHAMPIONSHIP wrestling, including a women's bout, is taking place at Margate's Winter Gardens this Easter.

The event, which is run by LDN Wrestling, promises family fun, sparkly costumes and audience participation and is coming to Margate on Sunday, April 7.

Sweet Saraya will be defending her title against Lady Penelope in the Shimmer Championship, while there will be tag-team action with the Norwich Hooligans taking on Team Hate.

The biggest fight of the night and main attraction is the Championship Rumble, which sees 10 wrestlers fighting it out in a last-man-standing contest.

Fight promoter Sanjay Bagga said: "It's live theatre and very much a family show with plenty of audience involvement."

"There's Richard Parliament, who says he happily takes all his expenses and the adults boo. Then he proclaims that he wants children to go to school seven days a week and it's their turn to boo."

"It works on all levels. It's all about fun, excitement and atmosphere. The children bring signs for their favourite wrestlers."

Tickets are priced at £12 for general admission and £10 for concessions; a family ticket costs £40. Doors open at 5.30pm, with the first match starting at 6pm. Phone 01843 292795 for more details.



It doesn't get much better than this for ABBA fans

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

FOR one night only, a critically-acclaimed ABBA show is coming to Dartford.

Featuring the original Frida from London's West End show, ABBA Reunion – Live In Concert will comprise an evening of hits from one of pop's most iconic groups, on Saturday, March 30, at Dartford's Orchard Theatre.

Presented by Sweeney Entertainments, ABBA Reunion is one of Europe's leading international tribute shows and follows the success of a four-month run in London's West End and a four-year European tour that sold out theatres, stadia and concert halls.

A six-piece band replicate the unique ABBA sound for the show, which is now in its 10th year and was put together by an acclaimed performer, producer, choreographer and director with Reunion Group.

The lyrics and music of Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvæus are re-created by six performers on stage, with the main focus on Agnetha Fältskog and Frida Lyngstad. Superb vocals, mannerisms and authentic choreography make for a two-hour performance not to be missed.

The original group took Europe by storm in 1974 when they won the Eurovision Song Contest with Waterloo.

In 1999 their songs were adapted for the



TROOPERS: Abba Reunion is coming to Dartford

phenomenally successful musical Mamma Mia, which introduced a new generation to their hits, including Knowing Me, Knowing You, Take A Chance On Me, Thank You For The Music and SOS.

The show starts at 7.45pm. Tickets are priced at £18.50 (concessions £16.50). To book, phone 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk/online for more details.

FAB FOUR



Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe
Thursday, April 4, 8.30pm
Phone: 01303 277175

Website: www.derekknash.com

The Derek Nash Quartet: Nash on baritone sax, Dick Pearce on trumpet, Mick Hutton on double bass and Sebastiaan De Krom on drums re-create Gerry Mulligan's music. Tickets £10.



Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne
Monday, April 1, 10.30am and 1pm
Box office: 01795 471140

Website: www.avenuetheatre.co.uk

Wreck-It Ralph: Computer-animated family comedy film starring John Reilly and Sarah Silverman. Running time 101 minutes. Tickets £4 adults, £1 children under 12.



Arden Theatre, Faversham
Thu to Sat, April 4-6, 7.30pm
Phone: 01795 590008

Mobile: 07808 068468

Murder On The Dance Floor: Brian Booth's murder mystery is set in a seedy backstreet nightclub in 1977 London on the night a girl-band's big show all goes wrong. Tickets £12.50.



Hospice In The Weald
Saturday, April 6
Phone: 01892 820527

Website: www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk

Wheels around The Weald: Take part in one of three charity bike rides for Hospice In The Weald. There are three routes, of 15 miles, 40 miles and 80 miles, from which to choose. Entry £15.

Celebrating 150 Years of Kent

Kent Life

What's on at Kent Life

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Fri 29 March - Mon 1 April
Make an eggs-cellent Easter bonnet and join in with our daily parade!

Lambing Weekend
Sat 13 - Sun 14 April
Meet our new arrivals!

For more details and to book online visit
www.kentlife.org.uk

Kent Life, Lock Lane, Kent ME14 3AU. Junction 6 of the M20. T: 01622 763936

hunt for gold at Leeds Castle

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leeds-castle.com

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It's all worth writing about!

EACH story of regeneration begins with poetry and ends with real estate, it is claimed.

East Kent has enjoyed a well-publicised creative surge, with high-profile projects such as Margate's Turner Contemporary gallery and the Folkestone Creative Quarter.

In parallel with the visual arts, but with less fanfare, is a dynamic and growing creative-writing scene. From Whitstable and Canterbury to Thanet, around the coast through Deal to Dover and Romney Marsh, aspiring writers are gathering to encourage the creation and publishing of each other's novels, plays and poems.

Testament to the pool of talent in the east of the county is Deal Writers. The group scooped the prestigious National Anthology Award in 2008 for its publication *View From The Pier* and meets monthly in the town.

In neighbouring Walmer, prize-winning poet Jo Field hosts a vibrant, eclectic literary salon, *Blue Tits*, at her beachside apartment.

It is no surprise that Canterbury is well represented. The popular writers' group *Save As*, run by Luigi Marchini, meets monthly. It also stages an annual awards night and is involved with *Canterbury Poet of the Year*.

With Gary Studley, Luigi jointly organises and MCs monthly poetry meetings, with an open mic session, at *The Jolly Sailor* pub in the city. Events include book and collection launches and first shows for both foreign and local poets.

The meetings, described as "Canterbury's premier spoken word nights", began in 2008. The duo publicise numerous events around east

Andrew Stucken is a freelance journalist specialising in technology. He lives and works in east Kent and his creative writing finds outlet in his blog and through some of the writers' groups mentioned in this article.



GET IN TOUCH

Save As luigimarchini@hotmail.com
Isle Writers jillqsmith@sky.com
genetouse@gmail.com
The Lifeboat Poetry Group
paul.scuffins@sky.com
Write Women Poetry Group
www.maggieharris.co.uk/writewomen
Marsh Ink bridgetfowkes@talktalk.net
National Association of Writers' Groups
www.nawg.co.uk

Kent, including book and poetry readings and creative-writing workshops.

They are also involved in promoting and organising literary events forming part of the *Canterbury Festival*, which showcases a diverse collection of writing every autumn.

A few miles away, Whitstable's Horsebridge arts centre hosts *Writers of Whitstable*, a creative writers' group, as well as a book group, and has also held a popular showcase of plays by women writers called *She Writes*.

The town's *Little Blue Hut* features an artist in residence whose occupants have included Thanet poet and playwright Nancy Charley.

Thanet hosts several writers' groups, including *Isle Writers in Broadstairs*, which staged an exhibition last year at the *Monkey Cage Gallery* in Ramsgate to mark the demolition of the *Richborough towers*. The group publishes an annual anthology and holds workshops.

Across town, the long-established *Broadstairs Writers group* publishes its own annual anthology, while the *Write Women poetry group* writes and performs both locally and outside the isle. It read for *Ramsgate Festival Club* last year and has produced several poetry collections. In nearby Margate, a poetry group gathers once a month at *The Lifeboat pub*.

There is scarcely a town that goes unrepresented. In Dover, poetry events take place at the yacht club and *Tricia Peak* hosts a literary group, *Nameless Poets*.

In Shepway, host to the *Folkestone Book Festival*, *Marsh Ink* is going strong on *Romney Marsh* after 20 years and has produced an anthology.

With such a creative flourish, if it is indeed true that poetry presages regeneration, perhaps east Kent can hope for a prosperous future.

Join Peterkin and the gang at Dover Castle

DECIDING what to do at Dover Castle this Easter half-term could prove to be a juggling act, with everything from medieval jousting to archaeological assault courses taking place.

The castle's popular jester, Peterkin, will be leading the way, balancing the world's largest egg on his nose and eating fire while on his stilts. There are also plenty of activities to get involved with, including his school for fools, in which he will be teaching all you wannabe comedians some of his tricks.

Plenty of medieval games will be taking place, while those with more of a leaning towards science can find out about medical practices from years gone by and learn about clocks and time measurements throughout the ages.

To top things off, there is a crash course in jousting and an Indiana Jones-inspired archaeological assault course.

The activities run from 10am-5pm from Good Friday, March 29, to Easter Monday, April 1.

Entry is £17 for adults, £15.30 for concessions, £10.20 for children and £44.20 for a family ticket.

For more details, phone 0870 333 1183 or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/dovercastle.

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MANSTON AIRPORT



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Celebrations as beer tax escalator axed

THE county's brewers, pubs and micro-breweries had all called on the chancellor to cut a proposed interest hike in beer tax and have loudly applauded his budget.

Mike Benner, CAMRA chief executive said: "Britain's beer drinkers will be raising a glass to the chancellor for axing this damaging tax escalator and helping keep pub-going affordable. This will keep the lid on the cost of a pint down the pub."

"Since the duty escalator was introduced in 2008, 5,800 pubs have been forced to call last orders for good. What could have been the final nail in the coffin for our pubs has been decisively avoided in a move that will spark celebration in pubs across the UK."

SME confidence boost

A STRONG signal that he wants more investment in the SME sector – that's the opinion of David Bywater, head of tax for KPMG in the south east on the Budget.

Bywater said: "Osborne announced a number of issues aimed at the SME community to help stimulate activity and increase employment. Introducing the employment allowance of £2,000 will give smaller businesses the confidence to take on that extra employee."

"George Osborne also sent out a signal that he wants more investment in the SME sector, signalling the vital role it has to play to get the economy on to its feet."

He added: "Measures to promote infrastructure and housing markets will have a drip feed effect on SMEs, but only if they truly translate into real activity across these sectors, which has been a challenge with previous initiatives."

"Announcements around increasing the rate for 'above the line' R&D tax credits and reducing the corporation tax rate to 20 per cent from 2015, sends out a clear message that the UK has one of the most attractive business tax regimes globally."

If you have a business story, Nick Ames would like to hear from you. Telephone him on 01303 817181, or alternatively email nick.ames@archant.co.uk Follow us on Twitter @KOSbusiness



Small firms give thumbs up to George's red box of tricks

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FORECASTS for this year's economic growth may have been cut in half, but George Osborne's budget got a largely positive response from Kent's business community.

Cuts to fuel duty, beer prices dropping and help for small firms all got a thumbs up from leading voices in the county's commercial sector.

Addressing the House of Commons on Wednesday, the chancellor said he expected the economy would grow by 0.6 per cent – half the 1.2 per cent he predicted four months ago in his autumn statement.

But he has also cut corporation tax by one per cent to 20 per cent and cancelled September's planned fuel duty rise.

He also scrapped above inflation alcohol duty rises and cut the price of a pint of beer by 1p.

And for the "hard working voters", the chancellor speeded up progress towards a £10,000 tax-free personal allowance. Help was also offered to homebuyers in an attempt to boost the housing market, which has been extremely slow.

According to the Kent Federation of Small Businesses, now is the time for the county's small firms to seize the chancellor's wide-ranging package of measures to support the economy.

The group said moves to create an employer's National Insurance allowance which will mean small businesses will not have to pay contributions (NICs) under £2,000, is a bold move.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "Kent FSB asked the chancellor and local MPs for a budget for small businesses and this is what has been delivered. This opens the door for small firms to grow and create jobs."

"The chancellor has pulled out all the stops, with a wide-ranging package of measures to support small firms."

"The housing initiative will help reinvigorate the construction sector in which many members operate and where confidence has been low."

Many perceive injecting life into the building industry as key to reinvigorating the economy.

Mr House added: "The NICs cut goes beyond what we were asking for and we are pleased to see the 3p fuel duty rise due in September completely scrapped. We look forward to hearing details on how the Government intends to take forward the Business Bank that will help provide much-needed access to capital for small firms."

On the scrapping of the fuel duty proposals, he said: "Fuel is consistently one of the main causes of rising overheads for a business in the county, so this will help to at least provide some certainty on these costs for the coming year. With 85 per



BUDGET: Chancellor George Osborne

■ WHILE many were celebrating the Budget, one financial analyst warned the impact on businesses in Kent will be minimal.

Managing partner at Sidcup-based accountants McBrides, Nick Paterno, said some aspects were positive but "too little too late".

Mr Paterno added: "The chancellor had very little room for manoeuvre in his budget and the impact for businesses in Kent will be minimal, in our view."

"With the 2013 growth forecast at 0.6 per cent, lower than previously predicted and public borrowing higher than he had anticipated, he had very little to play with to encourage confidence and prosperity."

"In our view it's very much a case of businesses ploughing on without any significant Government support, help or incentivisation until confidence returns to the economy or the Government enjoys a future windfall that can be spread. As the latter is unlikely, it's a case of heads down through difficult crosswinds still, unfortunately."



cent of local small businesses relying on a vehicle for work, this is welcome news."

Nick Parrett, of the Kent branch of the Institute of Directors, was also positive. He said: "Firstly, we welcome the changes to the corpora-

tion tax regime which will make the UK the most competitive tax regime in the world to do business. This will be particularly attractive to foreign businesses looking to establish themselves in the UK, something which Kent has a long successful history of given its proximity and transport links to Europe."

"We would also welcome the changes to the National Insurance regime, which will make it cheaper for businesses to employ more staff. In particular, I feel this will be of great benefit to SMEs, of which Kent has a high proportion among its business community."

Jo James chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce said: "The Budget's move to help our smallest companies take on staff by cutting their employers' National Insurance bills by £2,000 will give many businesses an important boost of confidence."

"Small companies should be able to focus on growth rather than worry about getting hit by employment taxes."

But she said the chamber had some reservations: "The chancellor has tried hard to shift spending towards growth, with some success. However, the Coalition as a whole should have taken the tough political decision to remove ring-fences around health, overseas aid and universal benefits, which would have allowed more immediate investment in road maintenance, house building, business access to finance and support for exporters."

"The business community will welcome the chancellor's move to re-direct money from Government departments to infrastructure over the medium term. However, businesses would have liked to see an even bigger shift in government spending towards priorities that unleash enterprise, which in turn delivers jobs, prosperity and the tax revenues needed to shrink the deficit and eventually the national debt."

But Jonathan Neame, brewer Shepherd Neame's chief executive was extremely pleased. He said: "By scrapping the beer duty escalator – and then reducing beer duty by a penny a pint – the chancellor has provided a great boost for the sector. British beer was on course to become the most heavily taxed in Europe which, in turn, would have put an unsustainable burden on the country's brewing and pub sector." (See left).

Mr Osborne told MPs: "I'm going to level with people about the difficult economic circumstances we still face and the hard decisions required to deal with them." He said his budget was for "those who want to work and get on".

MPs heard it was taking longer than expected but "we are, slowly but surely, fixing our country's economic problems".

Business Week

Training, courses and careers

CEO of industry body gets creative to highlight launch of new scheme



SWAP: Patsy Hayward

ROCHESTER apprentice Patsy Hayward got a taste of the high life when she swapped roles with the chief executive of the industry body which supports skills and training across the UK's creative industries.

The 20-year-old took to the stage at an event in London, swapping jobs with Creative Skillset CEO Dinah Caine, to launch the new Creative Skillset Higher Level Apprenticeships.

And while she was doing

that, Ms Caine staffed the event reception desk, greeting and directing invited guests and distributing name badges.

It was part of a number of National Apprenticeship Week events.

Dinah Caine said: "Patsy has been at Creative Skillset for seven months and has had a hugely positive impact in the communications team. She is a real testament to what apprenticeships are all about."

Hundreds flock to see inaugural careers fair

MORE than 500 people attended the first ever Apprenticeship Careers Fair at Bromley College.

The event was open to those keen to find out more about the range of apprenticeship job and training opportunities available.

Some 14 companies exhibited, with sectors represented including retail, charity, health care, insurance, hair and beauty and public services. The fair formed part of National Apprenticeship Week.

Regina is on the right track with major award

REGINA Tumblepot was named apprentice of the year at the inaugural Crossrail Apprentice Awards held recently at the Houses of Parliament.

The 26-year-old from Folkestone is an apprentice engineer working on the construction of platform tunnels at the new Whitechapel Crossrail station. Crossrail is a major new rail network in the south east.

She works for contractor BBMV and said she was delighted to win.



PROPOSALS: Government report could see a shake-up in the way apprenticeships are handled

Skills agency report fires up future of apprentices

A SHAKE-up to the way Government funds apprenticeship schemes could be on the cards after a major new report – and it could see funding shift from colleges to employers.

According to the Government's skills agency, the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, businesses should receive incentives to boost the delivery of high quality apprenticeships.

The call comes in a report designed to coincide with the hugely popular National Apprenticeship Week – a week-long series of events which included the backing of Prime Minister David Cameron.

The Conservative leader said he wanted apprenticeships to become the 'new normal' for young people who opt not to go to university.

In the report, Employer Ownership of Skills: Building the Momentum, the commission argues that "for too long, employers have been asked to engage with government-led skills initiatives underpinned by unsustainable levels of public funding".

The 28-page document makes eight recommendations for aligning skills investment with growth potential, and developing a training system that is fully focused on its customers – businesses and people.

These include funding employers, rather than colleges, for the delivery of apprenticeships; making public and private investment work harder by measuring the impact on people and business performance rather than simply counting qualifications; bringing trusted Labour Mar-

ket Information (LMI) together and making it freely accessible to answer questions like "how many of this type of job will be available in the future?" and "what do people doing that job get paid?"; and incentivising employers to work collaboratively and with unions to form industrial partnerships, taking end to end responsibility for skills within a sector or locality by setting standards and defining quality and career pathways.

Under the proposals to change the funding system, firms would receive money directly from the government to contribute towards the cost of taking on an apprentice, and would then negotiate a price for training with an approved local college.

Charlie Mayfield, chairman of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills said: "At its heart, what we are recommending is a long term commitment to identifying and investing in the skills and talents our economy really needs."

"To achieve that, employers must be in the driving seat with the freedom to work collaboratively in their sector, in their local area, within their supply chain, and with colleges and training providers to address the skills gaps they face now and in the future."

"In return, employers need to take responsibility for generating training opportunities for young people which are more relevant and more valuable. To support this, colleges and training providers will be freed from having to 'sell' government's agenda to employers. And there will be significant savings for the taxpayer."

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

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Dame Kelly lends support to colleges

Olympic legend Dame Kelly Holmes was guest of honour at a dinner attended by representatives of MidKent College recently.

The former middle-distance athlete, who won two gold medals at the 2004 Games in Athens, delivered a speech at the event hosted by the awarding body NCFE and the public sector service provider Tribal.

Dame Kelly spoke about her

personal experience of education – including her work with young people through Kelly Holmes Education – in addition to her career in the Army and 12 years of international athletics.

She said afterwards: "A theme that hopefully came through was the power that college leaders and principals have to change lives and make a huge difference to young people's aspirations."

"Across my team working for me now, I surveyed their experience of college – what they recall, the choices they made and the life skills that stayed with them."

"A clear message that came through was the differences and varied motivations, and it is those differences that we should embrace as a society."

The dinner was held at Merchant Taylors' Hall in London.

Call for politicians to make it their business to understand small firms

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

MORE than 40 per cent of small business owners believe that no political party understand their needs, according to research carried out by YouGov.

A poll of more than 500 people, carried out on behalf of online accounting software company FreeAgent, found that 42 per cent of those who run small businesses with five or fewer employees felt that no UK political party best understands the needs of the small business sector.

The Tories were seen as the top political party with 25 per cent of people saying the Conservatives understood small business needs.

Nine per cent felt UKIP was the most understanding party and the same percentage voted for Labour. But just three per cent believed the Liberal Democrats were most supportive.

Ed Molyneux, chief executive and co-founder of FreeAgent, said: "This research shows there is clearly a split among small business owners when it comes to determining which party has the best interests of the micro-business sector at heart.

"But it's also interesting to see that more than a third of people who were polled feel that not a single one of the UK's political parties properly understand small businesses.

"I hope the Government takes heed of this.

"The small businesses sector is vital to the UK's overall economy and important for all political parties to commit to nurturing these businesses, providing them with support and helping them grow.

"Starting your own business can be a terrifying prospect, so I hope the Government looks at how it can make it easier for people to get their

SURVEY: WHICH PARTY BEST UNDERSTANDS SME NEEDS?

No party
42 per cent

Conservatives
25 per cent

Labour
9 per cent

Ukip
9 per cent

Lib Dem
3 per cent

Greens
1 per cent

Don't know
11 per cent

Source: YouGov



business ideas off the ground and turn them into successes."

The Federation of Small Businesses works alongside politicians of all parties and last week wrote to all Kent MPs calling for the Government to do more to support its members.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway said: "The FSB engages with politicians of all political persuasions, some have extensive business knowledge and readily understand the issues; others have less experience and the FSB

provides well researched and documented information to inform and brief them on the implications of their policies for the sustainability and viability of Kent's small business community.

"Regulatory compliance can be a barrier to business start-up and growth. To persuade politicians to adopt business-friendly policies, the FSB conducts regular surveys of small business owners and we have achieved some successes with regulatory reform and will continue to campaign for Government to cut red tape."

Fears over rise in work-related stress

WORK-RELATED mental health problems are too important for businesses to ignore, according to charity Mind.

A report just published by the mental health campaigning group found that employees are turning to drink and drugs to cope with stress – but are afraid to tell their bosses what is bothering them.

Research has found that work is the most stressful factor in people's lives, with one in three people (34 per cent) saying their work life was either very or quite stressful, more so than debt or financial problems (30 per cent) or health (17 per cent).

The survey of over 2,000 people found that workplace stress has resulted in seven per cent (10 per cent amongst 18 to 24-year-olds) having suicidal thoughts and one in five people developing anxiety.

Stress has often caused people to resort to alcohol and drugs to cope. Nearly three in five people say they drink after work and one in seven drink during the working day to cope with stress and pressure.

Other coping mechanisms people cited were smoking (28 per cent), taking antidepressants (15 per cent), over the counter sleeping



KEY FINDINGS

- One in five people take a day off sick because of stress, but 90 per cent of those people cited a different reason for their absence.
- One in 10 people have resigned from a job due to stress and one in four have considered resigning due to work pressure.
- One in five employees felt they couldn't tell their boss if they were overly stressed.
- Of the 22 per cent who have a diagnosed mental health problem, 10 per cent had actually told their boss about their diagnosis.
- A total of 56 per cent of managers said they would like to do more to improve staff mental wellbeing but needed more training or guidance and 46 per cent said they would like to do more but it is not a priority.

aids (16 per cent) and prescribed sleeping tablets (10 per cent).

The findings also show that a culture of fear and silence about stress and mental health problems is costly to employers.

Chief executive of Mind, Paul Farmer, said: "Work-related mental health problems are an issue too important for businesses to ignore.

"Our research shows that employees are still experiencing

high levels of stress at work, which is negatively impacting their physical and mental health.

"We know that right now, one in six workers are experiencing depression, stress or anxiety and yet our survey tells us that most managers don't feel they have had enough training or guidance to support them.

"Improving mental wellbeing in the workplace doesn't have to cost a lot. Our research shows that people whose organisations offered flexible working hours and generous annual leave said such measures supported their mental wellbeing.

"Three in five people said that if their employer took action to support the mental wellbeing of all staff, they would feel more loyal, motivated, committed and be likely to recommend their workplace as a good place to work.

"Mind is urging managers and HR professionals to sign up to their free webinars and resources which will focus on creating mentally healthy workplaces in tough economic times and show them how to support staff who are stressed or have mental health problems."

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

New restaurant for officially cool town

A NEW restaurant has opened in Folkestone's Creative Quarter, which received a favourable mention in the Sunday Times, with the town being named the "fifth coolest" in Britain.

Blooms @ the Quarter specialises in Italian and Mediterranean food.

The menu includes pizza, fresh local fish, pasta, risottos, grilled meats, salads and homemade bread.

Bank insists the doors are open for business

BANKING company HSBC has stated that in 2012 it provided over £861 million of new lending to small and medium-sized businesses in the south east of England – and it wants to do more to help company expansion.

Ian Tandy, HSBC regional commercial director, said: "This demonstrates our doors are open for business, and we urge businesses to come and talk to us about their plans."

Construction firm up for magazine award

WROTHAM-based S Lucas has been shortlisted for the Construction News Awards 2013 in the Tomorrow's Company category.

Construction News editor, Rebecca Evans, told the shortlisted firms: "The construction industry has a lot to shout about and these awards are a part of that, each of you should feel rightly proud to be among our finalists."

Winners will be notified at an event in July.

Sponsorship deal for budding rugby players

KENT Channel Chamber of Commerce and the Folkestone Academy have joined up to create a business opportunity – offering the chance to sponsor a Folkestone Rugby Academy student.

Sponsorship will enable players to travel to South Africa in July. In return, participating businesses can expect two weeks worth of work experience from a student and to have their business promoted.

BayPoint cash boost set to safeguard jobs

BAYPOINT, the sports, fitness, business hub and leisure facility on the site of the former Pfizer Social Club at Discovery Park Sandwich, has secured £400,000 support from enterprise group Expansion East Kent.

The funding will be used to enhance and develop facilities on the 17-acre site and owners say it will safeguard 80 new jobs over the next two years.

African communities to utilise solar power

AN energy company from Edenbridge has secured a business deal worth £230,000 for its mobile solar-powered product, which will provide electricity for thousands of people in rural communities across Ghana.

Power for Africa, run by Paul Mercer and his business partner Peter Bowers, put together the device, which converts battery power to mains electricity.

Any age is the 'right' age to buy your first Jones home at Shurland Place on the Isle of Sheppey!

Any age is the 'right' age to buy your first Jones home at Shurland Place on the Isle of Sheppey!

Mention the phrase 'first time homebuyer' and the image that comes to mind is of a young couple moving in together – or a young professional choosing a smart city apartment. Ten years ago, when nine out of ten first time buyers were aged under 35, this may well have been the case. Today, however, the picture is somewhat different, with more than 30% of first time buyers aged over 35 and 6.5% of those in their late 40s and early 50s.

There's a whole range of reasons for the change – rising house prices mean that more people are caught in the 'rental trap' with high rental payments preventing them from saving for a deposit. Other would-be home owners cannot afford to rent and remain in the parental home into their late 30s and 40s. But why not rent? Renting privately

offers little security: landlords can get rid of tenants with a month's notice. Renting can be expensive and rather than paying off a mortgage, the money is destined for the landlord's bank account.

With affordable prices and the opportunity to buy a new home with a 5% deposit, now could be the best time to buy your first home at Jones Homes' Shurland Place development near Minster, on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent. Prices at Shurland Place start from just £145,500 and, with NewBuy, you could receive help to secure a 95% fixed rate mortgage, allowing you to move in with a deposit of just 5%.

Shurland Place comprises a stylish collection of two, three, four and five bedroom houses close to the village of Minster and the long beach at The Lees used by local people and visitors alike. Part of the beach is reserved for bathing but it's also popular with windsurfers and fishermen. The island has a relaxed

atmosphere, and commuting is easy with connections to the M2 and M20 motorways.

"Over the last year, our first time buyers have included people in their 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s," comments Sara Stanhope, Sales and Marketing Director for Jones Homes Southern. "Many of our buyers have invested in building a business rather than in home ownership, while others who have been renting for years have decided that they want to buy before they retire. We have a range of offers for first time buyers – and welcome enquiries from anyone thinking of buying."

For further information on NewBuy or on Shurland Place, Isle of Sheppey, please contact the Jones Homes' sales team on **01795 873995** Thursday to Monday inclusive, 10 am to 5.30 pm. Details of all Jones Homes developments are available on the website at jones-homes.co.uk.



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Time is running out for house hunters looking to purchase a stunning waterside apartment on the banks of the river Medway.

Just 10 two-bedroom apartments now remain at the impressive Blue Quarter riverside development, situated off Hart Street on the bank of the river Medway in the heart of Maidstone.

Each stylish apartment on the gated development features contemporary and practical interiors with spacious lounges, well equipped kitchens, bathrooms and en-suite facilities; and balconies from which to enjoy the riverside setting.

Jane Johnson Regional Sales and Marketing Manager, Kier Homes said:

“With only 10 properties remaining we’d urge buyers to act fast to secure their ideal property at Blue Quarter. There’s something for everyone here - a quiet location yet close to vibrant nightlife, great shopping at Maidstone, excellent transport links and with beautiful countryside providing the perfect backdrop to escape the hustle and bustle.”

First time buyers, keen to get their first step on the property ladder, can take advantage of FirstBuy - the Government-backed scheme available on every Blue Quarter home. This offers eligible buyers an approximate 80% loan to value mortgage of around £115,996 with just a 5% deposit of £7,249.75 to pay up front (terms and conditions apply).



Fair Share is also available, offering eligible buyers the opportunity to purchase 100% of their new home whilst paying just 85% of the cost, thanks to Kier Homes funding of 15%. Purchasers then have ten years to repay the remaining amount.

The Marketing suite at Blue quarter, Hart Street, Maidstone ME16 8RE is open seven days a week 10am to 5pm; opening until 7pm on Thursdays. For information, including about FirstBuy or Fair Share offers, call us on 0800 883 8362.



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*Based on the following purchase price of £144,995. With the FirstBuy scheme you can purchase your new home for just 80% of the full purchase price. A minimum of 5% deposit is required of the full value of the property. The outstanding balance is financed through an 'equity loan' funded by Kier Homes & the HCA, which is interest free for the first 5 years. The outstanding balance is paid back as a percentage of the Open Market Value after 25 years or subsequent re-sale, whichever occurs earliest. FirstBuy is available on selected properties only. Subject to status. Terms & conditions apply, please refer to your Sales Advisor for more details. Price correct at time of press. Photography of Blue Quarter. †Nationalrail.co.uk.

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Stay at home savers buy their first home thanks to NewBuy.

Gabrielle Quarmby and her partner Mark Leighton had been saving for a deposit since leaving university and starting work. Aged 25 and 26, Gabrielle is a Civil Servant and Mark a physiotherapist. They had both been living with their parents in order to save enough for a deposit. NewBuy has enabled them to get a foot on the property ladder and finally buy their dream home.

Having researched the market Gabrielle and Mark selected a Bellway home where they were able to take up the NewBuy deal.

“We really liked the look of the house and thought that it would be a place where we would be happy settling and bringing up a family. Bellway allowed us to reserve free of charge and provided carpets, we used their recommended solicitors and took a 95% mortgage with the Woolwich. All the arrangements have run very smoothly and Bellway kept us informed of progress as our home was being built. It really is fantastic to think that we now have our very own home.”

Bellway has a selection of developments where they are offering New Buy including: Oakwood Heights in Maidstone

“**The NewBuy scheme basically kick started our house hunting, without it we would still have been living at home with no hope of buying a house for at least another couple of years.**”

Gabrielle Quarmby.

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*The NewBuy scheme is available subject to status, terms and conditions and using a Bellway nominated solicitor and/or financial advisor as necessary. NewBuy will not be available in conjunction with any other financial incentives, such as deposit paid, legal fees paid or stamp duty paid. Bellway cannot advise you on a mortgage. Written details are available on request. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.



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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Cascada waiting for a change in the weather
- Power and economy from all-new Fiesta ST
- 3 follows 5 with the BMW Gran Turismo



Engineered to perfection as Porsche Boxster gets a makeover

Powered by



Driving

drive24.co.uk

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FIAT was a dead man walking until it hatched the retro-looking Fiat 500 in 2007.

Hailed as one of the coolest small cars to get into, the three-door 500 was a shot in the arm for the Italian brand, which has now dosed itself with an MPV spin-off – the five-door 500L (from £14,990).

Viewing it as a stretched 500 is stretching the imagination, though; apart from vestiges of a 500 'face', the newcomer looks more like Fiat's Panda utility car.

But I can't argue with Fiat wanting to sprinkle 500 stardust on to another product, or several, as there will be a pumped-up Trekking 500L shortly, while a 'Go Large' seven-seater and 500X mini-SUV are both on the cards.

For now, the Italian marque wants to infer that this first addition to the 500 family is just the ticket for 500 fans who've also got into the family way.

And while the pregnant 500L has lost the cheekiness of its hatchback namesake, it retains some 'la dolce vita' through seemingly limitless customisation options.

Fiat says it has the most body colours (10) in its segment, plus a choice of three roof colours: body colour, black or white, and 12 wheel options just for starters.

But 500 baby-boomers won't forsake their chirpy hatch simply because they can jazz a 500L just the same; they want space, and lots of it.

Fiat says the 500L has the best passenger volume index in its class (3.17 cubic metres). That means simply enormous within a small on-road footprint, with good leg- and headroom for all five passengers, plus a 400-litre boot – 50 better than a VW Golf – ensuring it's able to swallow a huge SUV baby buggy plus attendant baby baggage.

Rear seats drop completely flat for 'van mode', while also folding the front passenger's accommodates up to 2.4 metres of extra length for DIY projects.

And if your family wagon tends to be a Sargasso Sea of detritus from your nearest and dearest, the 500L offers hope of sorting it all out with 22 compartments, holding everything from a phone to big water-bottles.

It's also stylish inside; quite sensibly, Fiat has not tried to ape the retro charm of the 500, and entry-level Pop Star trim looks fresh, with flagship Lounge trim a little too chintzy – and considerably dearer (from £16,390).

There are no great surprises on powertrains, and that's no bad thing; whether you choose the tried and tested 95bhp 1.4-litre FIRE petrol engine, the frugal yet powerful 105bhp 0.9-litre TwinAir petrol turbo, or the 85bhp 1.3-litre Multijet diesel, you will get good economy.

Driving couldn't be easier; the 500L isn't intended to be a sports car, so ride and handling is rightly set up for maximum comfort, with a nice high driving position.



FIAT 500

Price:
£14,990

Driving appeal:

★★★★

Image:

★★★★★

Space:

★★★★★

Value:

★★★★

Running costs:

★★★★★

Reliability:

★★★★

How green?:

★★★★★

Best rival:

Ford B-Max

500 gets into the family way



BIG MOMMA:

Fans of the Fiat 500 can move up to the next level in motoring as their family grows, with the new 500L offering oodles of space to transport their children and luggage

DON'T LIKE

... Fiat inferring that this new car is somehow related to the popular 500, but BMW stretches the point with its Mini derivatives, doesn't it?

NOT SURE

... the 500L is endearing to look at, either, unlike the 500. On the other hand, it does have its own attractions: it's practical and customisable, too.

REALLY LIKE

... the 500L's spacial engineering – a proper MPV within a compact package. Maybe that's the 500 brand essence – what you like on a small scale.



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Is this the best Boxster so far?

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MAKERS of the very best cars don't tend to tinker with styling too often.

Firstly, they don't need to if they got the product right from the start.

Secondly, major changes trash residual values; nobody likes to be seen in what is obviously the 'old model', and if customers pay a lot up-front they won't be pleased to see the value of their car plummet.

The paragon here is German sports-car marque Porsche, which launched a third-generation Boxster roadster last year that wears subtle yet important changes from before.

As ever, the new car was designed from ground up to be a roadster; when Porsche did this with the 1996 original, it was the first time it had done so since the legendary 550 Spyder racer of the early 1950s.

This ensures that the car is not compromised in terms of rigidity and extra weight needed for strengthening as it might be if created by simply chopping the roof from a coupé to create a convertible.

But while Boxster generations one and two were almost identical, the new car's all-new lightweight body looks more aggressive and purposeful, with a wider track, greater windscreen rake and crisp lines leading into bigger versions of the Boxster's trademark air-intakes ahead of the rear wheel, highlighting the mid-engine layout that delivers such poise and balance.

Though even pragmatic reviewers at Which? judged the Boxster Best Used Car Buy 2012 thanks to bulletproof residual values, you do wonder if these might suffer a little as some would-be second-hand buyers stump up the extra cash and buy the new version (from £37,589) – and they'll be glad they did.

Not only does the car look more streetwise, but it's up to 35kilos lighter, while a 60mm longer wheelbase with shortened overhangs front and

PORSCHE BOXSTER 2.7: PRICE £37,589



FACT FILE	
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Best rival:	Mercedes-Benz SLK
Kent dealers:	
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IT'S RARING TO GO: Porsche has made subtle yet important changes to its legendary Boxster that has added to this already impressive machine as well as making it more fuel-efficient

back, plus the widened track, is said to add to stability and agility.

On-road, though, you would be hard-pressed to notice this, since every Boxster I've driven tucks neatly into a corner and hangs on tightly, yet none of this tenacity comes at the price of a horribly uncomfortable ride.

Indeed, the Boxster is a rare sports car that you could use on long business trips, not least because it has two boots – a shallow one at the back abaft the engine and a deep bin between the front wheels.

The cockpit is impeccably finished with high-quality leather and an orderly layout that maybe lacks some of the endearing features of the old car. There is also a big infotainment screen above a centre console, apparently inspired by the Porsche 911 Carrera GT supercar.

The driving position is as good as ever (and the view out the back as bad), but the car does now

benefit from a one-touch fully-electric hood.

As before, there is a choice of easy-revving flat-six – the boxer engine that inspires the car's name.

The 265bhp 2.7-litre tested here is 10bhp more powerful than its predecessor's 2.9 unit and is now based on the 315bhp 3.4 unit in its Boxster S sister (from £45,384).

Based on past experience that says any Boxster flatters the driver and flattens the opposition, I would argue 'Why pay more for the S model?'

Both engines come with a short-throw manual six-speed gearbox as standard, with Porsche's seven-speed dual-clutch PDK automatic box as a £1,900 option.

The latter delivers ultimate performance: 0-62mph in 5.5 seconds for the 2.7-litre and just 4.8 for the Boxster S.

But even Porsche has to admit it's not all about performance nowadays, so the new faster range is also up to 15 per cent more fuel-efficient.

First GEAR MOTORING NEWS



Roll on spring for Cascada

VAUXHALL hopes the lingering winter disappears soon – as it launches its smart all-new Cascada convertible in April.

Priced from £23,995, which Vauxhall is happy to say is almost £8,000 less than the smaller Audi A5 Cabriolet, the newcomer also has performance potential: 0-60mph in 8.9 seconds and a maximum of 143mph when equipped with the marque's excellent 163bhp 2.0-litre BiTurbo diesel.



Fiesta flagship is the ultimate

FORD has launched a performance flagship for its UK best-seller, the Fiesta supermini.

The Fiesta ST offers 20 per cent more power and fuel economy than the previous version, reaching 62mph in 6.9 seconds through its 180bhp 1.6-litre EcoBoost petrol engine, also allowing 47.9mpg (combined).

The ST stands apart with a unique grille, rear diffuser, Recaro seats and ST detailing.



3 Series Gran Turismo next

AS it did with its bigger 5 Series, BMW plans to add a Gran Turismo flagship – hatchback to you and me – to its big-selling 3 Series line-up.

Arriving here in May, the new 3 Series spin-off is longer and taller than the current 3 Series Touring (estate) and expected to cost some £1,300 more, with prices from just under £29,000.

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The traditional guarantee used to be a full main dealer service history, a reassuring record that everything required for the manufacturer's warranty had been carried out.

But this became seen as a restrictive practice, so EU legislation in 2002 made it illegal for manufacturers to insist on cars being maintained by their franchise network to keep the guarantee intact.

It also meant that manufacturers had to make vehicle diagnostics information – crucial with increasingly-sophisticated vehicles – specialist tools and updates available to independent garages and servicing centres.

Nevertheless, many car-buyers still believe that main dealer servicing is the best way to maintain reliability and the part-exchange or second-hand value of the car since used-car-

buyers will usually pay a premium for a full main dealer service history, particularly on sophisticated models.

Sceptics argue that this perceived premium is wiped out by paying higher main dealer service costs, but manufacturers and their franchised networks have raised their game since the 2002 legislation.

Indeed, with car sales and profits squeezed during the economic downturn, dealers have chosen to be more competitive on servicing, service plans, customer service and ancillaries like tyres and exhausts – normally the preserve of the quick-fit centres.

They also bank on the perception that only main dealers' service technicians can know a brand's cars as well they do, while 'all makes' centres must spread their expertise thinly across many makes and models.

And dealers know that happy service customers keep coming back, each time seeing the latest new cars just a few feet from the service desk – one day soon, they may buy again



LOOKING GOOD: Skoda's sleek new Octavia – worth protecting with a full main dealer service history

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SERVICE HISTORY: Vauxhall MasterFit dealers, left, have taken on quick-fit centres at their own game by offering competitive deals on consumables such as tyres, while using a main dealer ensures that only genuine manufacturers' parts are used to service cars like the futuristic Citroën DS3

AS motoring costs soar, it's all too easy to try to cut corners at the local 'quick/fast-fit' centre.

These specialist chains have blossomed as drivers try to save money on the biggest motoring 'consumables': exhausts, tyres, batteries, clutches, shock-absorbers and routine services, plus the annual MOT.

But main dealers have not been sitting on their hands, reckoning that if car-owners are still using their service bays they won't mind considering realistic deals on tyres and exhausts, for instance, to ensure a time-saving one-stop shop purchase.

Using the main dealer also guarantees only gen-

Quick fit or not?

uine manufacturers' parts are used, bringing the confidence of additional quality and reliability.

And that same guarantee, plus realistic pricing, has encouraged having bodyshop repairs done either by the franchise's own panel-beaters and paintshop or one that gets its seal of approval.

Main dealers have also borrowed from their quick-fit rivals, by offering menu pricing; this

means that, like dining out, a customer can decide what he wants and knows in advance what it will cost – avoiding any motoring indigestion when the bill is presented. Some dealers will even let you spread the cost via a finance or servicing scheme covering several years.

Others may also offer a loyalty scheme to keep owners of older models on their books rather

than see them defect to the non-franchised sector because those owners believe the lower value of their car does not warrant the higher perceived cost of main dealer servicing.

Another trick borrowed from the quick-fit sector is longer working hours at main dealer service centres; dealers are much more aware that many customers want to drop off their car early on their way to work and then pick it up at the end of the day – a courtesy car may even be offered.

Bookings can often be made centrally, too, so that customers living midway between two franchised dealers within the same group can pick the most convenient service slots available.

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Importance of booking the best care

NOBODY can argue that driving a modern car is not a much more forgiving and comfortable experience that it was just a few years ago.

Even an enthusiast's car like the original 1970s VW Golf GTI feels primitive up against its modern successor.

The downside is that much less can be done by the DIY mechanic; keeping the car in reliable, correct and safe condition is now more of a job for the professional and, of course, it costs.

Unfortunately, this means that owners often ignore problems for too long and servicing is stretched beyond the recommended parameters, which also endangers the warranty and the provenance of the vehicle when you come to sell.

So, the golden rules are:

- Maintain the service record to the letter. Get it serviced at the correct mileages or annually and make sure the servicing book is stamped up, although some motor marques are switching to centralised digital records so that a car's servicing record is always available if required.
- Read the warranty document thoroughly to ensure there are no possible pitfalls that could endanger the guarantee.
- Make sure you act on any recalls from the manufacturer for checks or replacements, even if they do not relate specifically to safety – it will help maintain the warranty and future saleability of the car.
- Don't rely on the MOT as insurance of the car's safety and reliability, even if has just passed with flying colours – problems can



ON THE MOVE: Main dealer servicing offers peace of mind for the ownership of sophisticated modern cars like the BMW 3 Series – a UK Top 10 best-seller

arise at any time and you should get them checked as soon as possible.

- Check lights regularly for safety and legality. Get used to 'lighting up' in the garage or when you are nosed in or backed up to a wall.
- Check tyres – including the spare – monthly, and that includes the correct pressures as listed in the handbook or the sticker often placed on the driver's side door frame. Though the legal tread depth is 1.6mm, most motor-ing authorities advise replacement at 2mm,

especially in winter when icy and wet conditions can compromise grip.

- Keep oil, windscreen-washer, coolant, power-steering, clutch and brake fluid levels topped up without over-filling, and make those checks on level ground. Don't wait for warning lights to come on – it could be too late to prevent damage or compromise safety. Some cars have an interim set of warning lights, but these can be an unwelcome reminder if you are in the middle of a long journey at the weekend and miles from a decent garage.

Don't be caught out.

- Replace wiper blades. There is little point in keeping the washer topped up if the blades are worn or split. But if the windscreen is covered with bugs and grease, don't expect the washer and wipers to do the job for you – use a spray and elbow grease.
- Shop around for servicing. Even if you are committed to main dealer servicing, it does not mean you have to go back to the one where you bought the car – some are better on pricing and customer service than others.

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Warranty wars

NEW cars are covered by a warranty.

For years, the standard was three years and/or 60,000 miles, but a recent outbreak of 'warranty wars' between carmakers has seen both the years and the mileages increase.

It's a good reason for car-buyers to shop around, but some of the new deals also reinforce the old adage to check the small print.

This will confirm exactly what the manufacturer will and will not pay for if the car breaks down within the agreed time period or mileage.

This makes it imperative that the car-owner also sticks to the rules by keeping the car serviced according to the warranty and also taking note of and acting upon any recall

notices for unforeseen faults and problems.

Some marques are more lenient about late servicing than others, but a common pitfall is to have the car serviced only by mileage, when most manufacturers now insist that the car is serviced annually if the required miles are not being covered. You don't have to use a franchised dealer for servicing – this stipulation was thrown out by EU legislation in 2002 – but do check for caveats in any case.

Be aware also that some marques offer the chance to extend the warranty for a reasonable cost or will 'wind back' the warranty clock to start again if you buy an approved used example from one of their dealers – not a bad option.



BATTLE:
From left: Hyundai has raised the stakes – models like the i30 have a five-year/unlimited mileage guarantee. Keep the service schedule up to date to maintain the warranty on the Peugeot 3008, or this Alfa Romeo Giulietta



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To book your Volvo Service today, simply call Lipscomb Group on

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With our competitive all-inclusive prices, BMW Value Service means that a premium service and the very best care for your BMW is more affordable than you may expect.

The programme has now been extended to include BMW 5 Series Saloon and Touring models built from 2003 onwards that are four years of age and older. All work is carried out by BMW Trained Technicians using Genuine BMW Parts, which come with a two-year dealer warranty.

On top of this your BMW will be washed and vacuumed, right before your service book receives that all important BMW stamp.

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FROM **£389***

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08433 931 322 www.ardenmaidstonebmw.co.uk

THINK WE'RE EXPENSIVE? THINK AGAIN.

*Participating dealers only. Prices shown are valid for the BMW 5 Series E60/E61 Saloon and Touring petrol models, four years of age and older from date of first registration. Prices for diesel models differ. Major Service is required either every 2nd or 3rd oil service dependent on vehicle, please contact your local dealer who will be able to advise you on when this service is due on your vehicle. Excludes all 550i, 545i, 540i and M5 models. Prices include VAT, parts and labour.



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MAIN DEALER SERVICING

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THE RIGHT SETTING:
Dealer technicians work in a spotless environment, as seen inside this Volvo dealership... customers are encouraged to watch their car being worked on

Hi-tech cars need high-spec 'techs'

NEW motor technology – everything from hybrids to stop-start systems to save fuel and emissions – plus a shortage of skills in the jobs market have made the main dealer technician the key to a site's servicing operation.

Sarah Sillars, executive chair of the trade's Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI), said: "The rate of technological change in the automotive industry is being driven by competition, consumer demands and regulation."

"This is creating a constant requirement for businesses to anticipate change and invest in training to help staff keep pace with developments."

The body has also developed a

Consumer Code of Practice system to promote and maintain professional standards, while sister organisation the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) has published a paper, Strengthening Skills For A Growing Economy, calling on the Government to help feed demand for the necessary skill sets and ease unemployment at the same time.

Most motor-manufacturers are proactive in finding and promoting technicians within dealership networks.

Many of these technicians are then sent to special sites and plants run by the companies in the UK and abroad to test their skills and attain the highest qualifications.



WELL TRAINED: A Vauxhall technician at work checking the oil on a car



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MAIN DEALER SERVICING

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MAKING IT EASIER ON YOU: Most dealers can now offer servicing prices and plans to suit customers' needs... with details and tariffs readily available on-screen thanks to on-site IT support in franchises

Servicing the car on a fixed budget

YOU really don't want a shock when you are handed the bill after the next service on the car, especially in these tough economic times.

So it's hardly surprising that many people are turning to dealers offering fixed-price service menus and plans to control and smooth out the motoring budget.

The idea took off first with premium brands whose service costs were perceived as pricey and

capitalised on an owner's natural reluctance to jeopardise the future value of the car by servicing outside the dealer network.

More mainstream brands have now adopted the same tactic, though, in a bid to counter ambitious independent and quick-fit operators only too happy to siphon off the steady churn of servicing work.

Service plans can also be quite flexible – some

are even free. Initially, they were launched to cover the car's warranty period – transferable in the event of the car's sale – or on an annual basis, but many brands have followed up with one-off deals or monthly instalment options, recognising that many drivers like to break down their motoring budget into more manageable chunks of money.

The best advice is to ask your main dealer

about the menu of fees and schemes available and to then get advice on the pros and cons of each one.

The blurb for such schemes uses the word 'policy' a lot, for that is virtually what they are: insurance policies for servicing and the vehicle warranty – a cost-effective but necessary part of the month-by-month/annual cost of running a car.

Watch out for any nasty surprises with your next car.

Every car on drive24 has had a free Experian™ history check to see if it has been stolen, scrapped, imported or written off in the past, so you can have peace of mind when searching for your next car.

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MAIN DEALER SERVICING

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What's an 'FMDSH' and is it worth it?

USED-CAR ads have their own language and some of the most confusing jargon for the layman are DSH, MDSH and FMDSH.

They are all variations on the theme 'dealer service history', with FMDSH being the gold standard – full main dealer service history.

Does it matter? Well, many new-car buyers think it does, to protect future part-exchange or second-hand values of their cherished motor, since used-car buyers will pay a premium for a complete and unblemished main dealer service history.

Cynics might argue: "Ah, but you wiped out that perceived premium by paying more for your main dealer servicing while you owned the car."

It's a point, but main dealers specialise in servicing their own models, while 'all makes' service sites must spread their expertise more thinly.

And franchised dealers, having seen sales profits squeezed ever more tightly, have chosen to market servicing more aggressively.

They've become more cost-effective and introduced competitive pricing on items like tyres – normally the preserve of the quick-fit centres.

Happy service customers keep coming back, too, bringing immediate revenue and the possibility that they might buy another new car soon.

Third-party sources also support the wisdom of keeping your new car in the franchise family.

Media motoring guru Honest John really was honest with a BMW-owner who considered using an independent garage to maintain his car:

"After independent servicing, you will get a lower part-ex price from a BMW-dealer and it will go to auction. If the car has a full dealer service history and is in retail condition, you will get a higher price. The difference will normally be worth more than you save on maintenance."

Motor Trade Insider website polled several professional motor-traders who collectively buy 5,000 cars per year for main dealers.

The simple question was: "If you were asked to bid on a three-year old variant of one of your models with average mileage and spec, would you value it any less if it had three KwikFit/Halfords/Tesco etc stamps against three stamps from the franchise represented by the car?"

"The results in some cases were staggering: the Ford- and VW-buyers said they would value a car like this £800-£1,000 less. The Jaguar-buyer said it would need to be £1,500 to £2,000 less and, amazingly, the BMW and Mercedes boys said they probably just wouldn't want to buy it."



MAIN DEALER OR LOCAL GARAGE?

Buy the new fourth-generation Renault Clio and then cherish it with a full main dealer service, say the experts... likewise, the sleek Citroën DS5 – you may not like the initial expense but dealerships have started to use more competitive pricing and in the long run it could improve the value of your car

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Front brake pads

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Rear brake pads and discs

£169*



Front brake pads and discs**

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🌐 **www.caffyns.co.uk**

*For ŠKODA vehicles 3 years (from first MOT) up to 10 years old. National Pricing is available to retail customers at participating ŠKODA retailers only. All prices are (where applicable) inclusive of standard parts, labour, oil and VAT and come with a two-year parts and labour warranty. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Further terms and conditions apply, please ask your ŠKODA retailer for details. **Fabia only. Every other model £209. vRS and V6 models £249. †Includes cambelt, tensioners and rollers as required. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time.



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The Spencer Private Hospital is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEOM Hospital site. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Physiotherapy Manager

Circa £45,000 - depending on experience
Full Time

To manage our Physiotherapy Department and maintain clinical skills with our in-patient and out-patient activity, primarily at Margate but across both sites. Post graduate, (BSc Physiotherapy) and previous management experience preferred

Physiotherapist

Full Time

To manage own caseload across both sites. In-patient and out-patient service delivery will be required as will occasional weekend work.

Bsc Physiotherapy or equivalent and post grad experience required

Closing date for both applications - 29 March 2013

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Mary Guarnieri, Matron - 01843 234252

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards

East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Private Hospital
2nd Floor, Atina House, Bench Street, Dover
Kent CT16 1JH

Telephone: 01304 245951 Fax: 01304 207320

E-mail: jo.edwards@spencerhospitals.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site.

We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurses (Margate)

Full and part-time positions available

Closing date for applications - 29 March 2013

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Sue Jones - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207

For job description and application form please contact:

**Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd,
The Spencer Private Hospital, 2nd Floor, Atina House,
Bench Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1JH**

Telephone: 01304 245951

Fax: 01304 207320

E-mail: jo.edwards@spencerhospitals.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer.
This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Learning Support Assistant

Ref: P023

**£9.64hr - Part Time 15 - 25 hours per week (term time)
Medway & Maidstone Campus**

The College is looking to recruit Learning Support Assistants to support students with a variety of needs. The ideal candidate will have the ability to work in a manner to support the changing needs of students ensuring differentiation is implemented within the classroom and have experience of supporting young adults with a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Closing date: 29/03/2013

Sessional Theatre Technician

Ref: P022

£9.98 - £11.64 per hour - Depending on qualifications and experience - Medway Campus

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic sessional Theatre Technician. Working as part of a vibrant Performing Arts and Music team the successful applicant will make a valuable contribution to the College's extensive programme of arts events.

The post will involve a wide range of activities related to technical theatre and the production process in all aspects of sound, lighting, audio visual, stage management, pre and post production. You will work alongside the teaching team to provide the support for our students. The successful candidate will be flexible, creative and show the ability to work independently as well as within a team. The nature of the role includes some evening and occasional weekend work.

Closing date: 29/03/2013

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

To apply for this position please contact
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.



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We are a great team, and together with our therapeutic and academic approach we are able to achieve great things for our students. As a team we share a real desire to set a new, even higher standard of care in education and you can help us achieve this goal. The School has approval status from the DfCS and has an excellent rapport with both parents and the Local Authorities.

Please see our website for Ofsted and Investors in People reports

We are looking to appoint enthusiastic, flexible and innovative **Full Time Teachers**

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All posts are from September 2013

The successful candidates will have the following:

- excellent specialist subject knowledge and skills and experience of teaching
- develop an innovative and creative learning environment
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- the commitment to pursue opportunities for CPD

Application form, Job Descriptions and for further details about our school please visit our website on www.westheathschool.com or contact Lynne McGrath on lynne.mcgrath@westheathschool.com or tel 01732 460 553

Closing date for applications **29th March 2013**

The successful applicants will be subject to an Enhanced CRB check.

The New School at West Heath is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

To place your notice here,
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PLANNING



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 08 APRIL 2013

SW/12/1174:
Construction of porch to rear (South East corner) of existing building. Extension of existing pitched roof of main building across proposed porch including replacement of flat roof section of main building within the new roof structure - The Old Exchange, The Street, Selling, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/13/0161 & SW/13/0264:
Alterations to widen the two points of vehicle access into the site and internal & external alterations including replacement and new windows to side and rear elevations - Primrose House, Primrose Lane, BREDGAR; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/13/0218:
Replacement kitchen to rear - 63 Ospringe Street, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/13/0221:
Listed building consent for the creation of two 150mm below-ground holes within listed wall to allow water supply pipework to pass through the wall - Dockyard Wall adjacent to 1 Regency Close, SHEERNESS; REASON 2

SW/13/0226:
Listed Building Consent for erection of wooden shed - Old Cottage, Highted Valley, RODMERSHAM; REASON 2

SW/13/0228:
Single storey flat roof rear extension - 21 Priory Row, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/13/0230:
Listed Building Consent for new signage - Lloyds TSB, 44-45 Court Street, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/13/0242:
Advertisement consent for two replacement internally illuminated ATM tablets, one replacement internally illuminated fascia sign, one new internally illuminated projecting sign - Halifax PLC, 70-74 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 1

SW/13/0273:
Change of use of No. 16 West Street previously in use class A4 as "The Jolly sailor" to a new C3 dwellinghouse (Retrospective) - Jolly Sailor, 16 West Street, Bluetown, SHEERNESS; REASONS 1 & 2

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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CANTERBURY

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT No 1) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HERNE BAY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT No 1) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WHITSTABLE) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT No 1) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY RURAL PARISHES) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT No 1) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The orders were made on 18 March 2013 and come into force on 1 April 2013.

Full details are contained in the made Orders which, together with a statement of the Council's reasons for making the orders, may be examined at the Canterbury City Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Orders or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may, within six weeks from the date on which the Orders were made, make application to the High Court for this purpose.

This Notice is published on behalf of
Kent County Council
Highways and Transportation
Enterprise and Environment, County Hall
Maidstone, ME14 2XQ



To place your notice
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Kent Public Notice
team on

01303 817056

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/12/2009/S - BRISHING COURT FARM, BRISHING LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4NF - Erection of single storey extension to north elevation, demolition of outbuilding, extension to existing single storey addition together with the installation of 2no dormer windows and stair tower on west elevation. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2010/S - BRISHING COURT FARM, BRISHING LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4NF - Listed building consent for alterations including internal alterations and erection of single storey extension to north elevation, removal of 2no windows within east elevation, removal of existing chimney, extension to existing single storey addition together with the installation of 2no dormer windows and stair tower on west elevation. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0205/N - THE GRANARY, SMITHS FARM, HOLLINGBOURNE HILL, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1QJ - Retrospective application for installation of raised flower bed. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0305/S - PIPPINS, WEST END, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9JB - Conservatory to side elevation. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/0308/S - GARDENERS COTTAGE, CHILSTON PARK, BOUGHTON ROAD, SANDWAY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2BE - Repositioning and replacement of oil store. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0321/S - BOUGHTON SERVICE STATION, HEATH ROAD, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JD - Part retrospective application for the laying of additional hardstanding and installation of landscaping to the western boundary. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/13/0339/N - RAIGERSFIELD LODGE, ASHFORD ROAD, WEAVERING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4AE - Erection of a single storey side extension and side porch. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0342/S - HEADCORN AERODROME, SHENLEY ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9HX - Variation of condition 7 of MA/77/1559 to hold an aerial display to include the BBMF, The tiger club and the Bi-wing formation on 17th & 18th August 2013. **Reason: 7 10**

MA/13/0344/N - LOWER, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Relocation of canon and plinth together with the installation of illuminate lighting and the planting of 8 new trees. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/13/0345/N - LOWER, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Listed building consent is sought for the relocation of canon and plinth together with the installation of illuminate lighting. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0349/N - NEW SHELVE FARM, ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2DS - Erection of agricultural building for grain storage and general purpose. **Reason: 1 6**

MA/13/0357/S - 6, PALACE AVENUE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6NF - An application for listed building consent for retention of air conditioning units and ventilation vent to rear wall (retrospective application). **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0358/S - LAND OFF, MAIDSTONE ROAD, MARDEN, KENT - Outline application for the provision of new sports club ground (to include cricket pitches, artificial multi-purpose/hockey pitches, tennis courts, cricket nets, floodlights, clubhouse and car parking) including change of use from agriculture, with access to be determined and all other matters reserved for subsequent approval. Amendments to and resubmission of application MA/11/0361. **Reason: 6 7**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
- 10 - Application is of general Public Interest.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **7th April 2013** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Dated: **24th March 2013**.

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/03567/HOUSE **Matfield House, The Green, Brencley**
- Reflection pool and surrounding paving, hot tub (MAJOR)(CA)

13/00568/HOUSE **Mill Oak Cottage, Mill Oak Road, Brencley**
- Two storey rear extension, with Juliette balcony (LB)

13/00569/LBC **Mill Oak Cottage, Mill Oak Road, Brencley**
- Listed Building Consent: Two storey rear extension, with Juliette balcony (LB)

13/00566/LBC **School House Cranbrook School, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Repairs to windows and painting (LB)

13/00477/FUL **The Keepers, Caravan Smugglers Farm, Goudhurst**
- Demolition of game rearing and storage buildings and replacement of gamekeepers cottage with new dwelling, including a change of use of adjoining land currently used for game rearing to residential curtilage, access and landscaping (amendment to extant planning permission TW/10/00853/FUL comprising amended house design) (PROW)

13/00433/HOUSE **Slip Mill Cottage Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst**
Demolition of existing rear toilet; new single storey side extension; roof extension; dormer to side (north) elevation; rear conservatory (LB)

13/00437/LBC **Slip Mill Cottage Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of existing rear toilet; new single storey side extension; roof extension; dormer to side (north) elevation; rear conservatory (LB)

13/00557/LBC **Lloyds TSB Bank Plc 82 Mount Pleasant Road, Park**
- Listed Building Consent - New signage (LB)

13/00523/HOUSE **15 The Paddock Pembury, Pembury**
- Single storey side extension, roof alterations and additional parking space (CA)

13/00593/FUL **Flat 9 3 Rusthall Road, Rusthall**
- Installation of one window in ground floor bedroom on West elevation, reinstatement of one window in ground floor bathroom on South elevation and brick up of current bathroom window on West Elevation (CA)

13/00581/FULMJ **NDGA Unit 3, Sherwood**
- Retrospective - External alterations to front elevation and continued of use of building as gymnastics academy, dance studio and gym (MAJOR)

13/00491/HOUSE **Stone Cottage The Green, Speldhurst**
- Side and rear extensions (amendment to previously approved scheme TW/10/03416 refers) (LB) (CA)

13/00582/HOUSE **Sunset Cottage 3 Penshurst Road, Speldhurst**
- Dormer and gable addition to roof (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: **23 March 2013**



HIGHWAYS – in the city of

CANTERBURY

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY)(TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 2) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to amend the Kent County Council (Canterbury) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2012 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Canterbury:

100	Havelock Street	Make residents' parking apply on Saturday
200	St Martins Terrace	Extend double yellow lines outside No 5
300	Querns Road	Double yellow lines in the road leading to 81 to 116
400	Warwick Road	Single yellow lines on both sides, near the junction with Littlebourne Road
425	Ivy Lane	Change single yellow line to double yellow lines
430	Burgate	Loading ban and goods vehicles loading bay
440	Canterbury Lane	Loading ban and alterations to motor cycle and disabled parking areas
500	Upper Bridge Street	Taxi rank in the layby at the junction with Dover Street
600	Rose Lane	Taxi rank
615	Raymond Avenue	Two more parking bays
700	Tannery Development	Prohibition of parking
800	Knight Avenue	Extend double yellow lines on the west side to Shipman Avenue and pavement parking ban up to Miller Avenue
900	Bishops Way	Double yellow lines at the entrance
1200	St Thomas Hill	Single yellow lines
1300	Roseacre Close	Residents' parking
1500	Pine Tree Avenue	Double yellow lines
1600	Mandeville Road	Double yellow lines
1700	Beaconsfield Road	Double yellow lines
1750	St Stephens Hill	Double yellow lines
1800	Manwood Avenue	Double and single yellow lines
1950	The Terrace	Single yellow line (9am to 10am and 2pm to 3pm) along the northern side
2000	Headcorn Drive	Double yellow lines around the bend
2100	Kemsing Gardens	Double yellow lines across the garage access
2200	Donsway Drive	Double yellow lines
9991	Barton Road, Blackfriars Street, Harcourt Drive, Kent Avenue, Shipman Avenue and Strangers Lane	Make existing disabled parking bays enforceable

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HERNE BAY)(TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 2) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to amend the Kent County Council (Herne Bay) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2012 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Herne Bay:

3000	Ridgeway Road	Double yellow lines on the southern side of the road.
3050	Canterbury Road Service Road	Extend double yellow lines up to Mill View Road
3100	Woodrow Chase	Double yellow lines
3200	Mill View Road and Strode Park Road	Double yellow lines
3300	Harvest Court	Double yellow lines to protect garage accesses
3400	Pigeon Lane and Hillcroft Road	Double yellow lines
3500	Hillcroft Road and Green Acres Close	Double yellow lines
3700	Highfields View	Double yellow lines
3825	Reculver Road	Double yellow lines
3850	Manor Road and Haven Drive	Double yellow lines
3900	Beltinge Road	Double yellow lines
4000	Beacon Hill	Extend the parking bays to the eastern end of Beacon Hill.
4100	Beacon Hill	4 hour limit in parking bays
4200	Mickleburgh Hill and Dence Park	Double yellow lines
4300	Burton Fields and Thundersland Road	Double yellow lines
4350	Douglas Road	Double yellow lines
4400	Canterbury Road	Double yellow lines
4500	Kings Road and Bay Mews	Extend double yellow lines across the access to Bay Mews
4700	Station Chine	Double yellow lines
4800	Beach Street	Move the disabled bays across the road and extend the taxi rank.
4850	Telford Street	Extra parking bays
4900	Brunswick Square	Disabled Parking Bays
5000	Station Road	20 minute parking bay
5100	Albany Drive	Extend yellow lines further north from the junction with Fernlea Avenue
5250	Fleetwood Avenue	Single yellow line between St Anne's Drive and Sea Street
5300	St Annes Drive	Extend double yellow lines
5400	Sea Street	One hour parking bays
5600	Granville Drive	Double yellow lines
9992	Clarence Street and Cobblers Bridge Road	Make existing disabled parking bays enforceable

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WHITSTABLE)(TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 2) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to amend the Kent County Council (Whitstable) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2012 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Whitstable:

6000	Thanet Way Service Road	Extend double yellow lines
6030	Clover Rise and Thanet Way	Double yellow lines.

6050	Clover Rise and Highgate Road	Double yellow lines.
6100	Herne Bay Road	Double yellow lines.
6200	Swalecliffe Road	Single yellow lines (school start and finish times)
6250	Priest Walk	Double yellow lines
6400	Marine Crescent	Double yellow lines
6450	Northwood Road and Bennells Avenue	Double yellow lines
6500	Marine Parade	Overnight prohibition of motor caravans
6610	Kingsdown Park	
6625	Northwood Road and Fitzroy Road	Double yellow lines
6700	Castle Road and Strangford Road	Double yellow lines
6800	Castle Road and The Bridge Approach	Double yellow lines
6850	Station Road	Extend double yellow lines
6900	Tower Hill	Remove parking bay
6920	Tower Hill near Park Avenue	Extend parking bays up to Park Avenue
7050	Woodlawn Street and Sydenham Street	Single yellow lines along one side, applicable Monday only
7100	Hamilton Road	Double yellow lines
7200	Gladstone Road	Loading ban
7300	Waterloo Road	Change single yellow line to double yellow line
7400	Old Bridge Road	Change single yellow line to double yellow line
7700	Gordon Road	Single yellow line
7800	Long Reach Close	Extend double yellow lines
7850	Grimthorpe Avenue and Valkyrie Avenue	Double yellow lines
7900	Joy Lane	Double yellow lines
9993	Reservoir Road and Nelson Road	Make existing disabled parking bays enforceable
-	Harbour Street, High Street and Oxford Street	Make single yellow lines, loading ban and loading bay restrictions apply on Sundays
-	High Street	Install a taxi rank near Terry's Lane on a one year trial basis
-	Tower Hill	Impose a 4 hour time limit on the parking bays

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY RURAL PARISHES)(TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 2) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to amend the Kent County Council (Canterbury Rural Parishes) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2012 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in rural parishes in the Canterbury District:

8900	Fordwich Road	Sturry	Double yellow lines
9000	Sturry Court Mews	Sturry	Disabled Parking Bays
9100	Island Road	Sturry	Confirm existing yellow lines outside this new development.
9150	Risdon Close	Sturry	Double yellow lines
9200	Pennington Close	Westbere	Double yellow lines
9300	Grove Ferry Road	Wickhambreaux	Double yellow lines
9400	Town Hill	Bridge	Double yellow lines
9600	Beech Avenue and Updown Way	Chartham	Double yellow lines between the chicanes
9700	Old Church Road	Chartham	Double yellow lines between the chicanes
9800	Blean Common and Tyler Hill Road	Blean	Double yellow lines between the chicanes
9825	Blean Common and Chapel Lane	Blean	Double yellow lines between the chicanes
9850	Hackington Road	Hackington	Double yellow lines between the chicanes
9994	St John's Crescent, Tyler Hill and Rentain Road	Chartham	Make existing disabled parking bays enforceable
9999	various	Sturry	

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, CITY OF CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON FOOTWAY OR VERGE) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to further amend the The Kent County Council (Various Roads, City of Canterbury) (Prohibition of Stopping On Footway or Verge) Order 2013 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Canterbury.

650	Hollowmede and Elham Road	Pavement Parking Ban
1150	Whitstable Road	Pavement Parking Ban
1400	Roseacre Close	Pavement Parking Ban
1740	St Stephens Hill area	Pavement Parking Bans in St Stephen's Hill, Shaftesbury Road, Leycroft Close and Stephenson Road
2150	North Lane	Pavement Parking Ban
4450	Canterbury Road	Pavement Parking Ban outside the shops between King's Road and Gosfield Road
4600	Kings Road	Pavement Parking Ban between William Street and Canterbury Road
4950	Brunswick Square	Pavement Parking Ban
6950	Victoria Street	Pavement Parking Ban between Harbour Street and the car park
7600	Gosselin Street	Pavement Parking Ban

Full details are contained in the draft orders which, together with a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the orders, a map showing the location and effect and a copy of any orders which will be amended by the proposed order, may be examined at the Canterbury City Council Offices in Military Road, Canterbury or William Street, Herne Bay during normal office hours. Details are also available at www.canterbury.gov.uk/yellowlines

If you wish to object to the proposed orders you should write, stating the grounds for your objection, to the Transportation Manager, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW Alternatively you may email your response to transportation@canterbury.gov.uk Your submission must be received by noon on **Friday 12 April 2013**.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed order or require further information please email the city council's Transportation and Environment Team or telephone **01227 862 544** Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

This Notice is published on behalf of Kent County Council, Highways and Transportation, Enterprise and Environment, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 2XQ.



Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/12/01430/FUL: Land south of Greenhill Road and Junction Road, Herne Bay, CT6 7RS Change of use from agriculture to junior football pitches and allotments. **Applicant: Hollamby Estates (2005) Ltd** Reason: Contrary to development plan and major.
CA/12/01431/OUT: Land south of Greenhill Road and Junction Road, Herne Bay, CT6 7RS Outline application for residential development of between 40-50 dwellings and public open space with access from Greenhill Road. **Applicant: Hollamby Estates (2005) Ltd** Reason: Contrary to development plan and major.
CA/13/00248/FUL: Reculver Caravan Park, Reculver Lane, Herne Bay, CT6 6SU Change of use from caravan park to grazing land to form part of Reculver country park. **Applicant: Canterbury City Council** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00281/FUL: 5 St George's Terrace, Herne Bay, CT6 8RG Replacement railings and balcony to front facade. **Applicant: Mrs Penn-Simkins** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00385/LB: 49 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2SE New signage. **Applicant: Lloyds Banking Group** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/13/00403/FUL: 94 Western Avenue, Herne Bay, CT6 8UF New conservatory to the rear of the property. **Applicant: Mrs Hearn** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00410/FUL: 46 Station Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5QH Extension of existing garage to side and rear to provide additional living accommodation and associated external alterations. **Applicant: Mr Monticlonbi** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00435/ADV: 144 High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5NW Installation of various illuminated and non-illuminated signage. **Applicant: Lloyd's Banking Group** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00440/LB: 5 St George's Terrace, Herne Bay, CT6 8RG Replacement railings and balcony to front facade. **Applicant: Ms Penn-Simkins** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/13/00442/LB: The Windmill, Millers Court, Whitstable, CT5 4QB External door and window alterations and new gates. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Leith** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/13/00450/LB: 68 Stour Street, Canterbury, CT1 2NZ Works of refurbishment and alterations to Errol House to include demolition of outbuildings, raising of external wall, alterations to roofs, existing windows and doors and insertion of new doors and windows. Application of tile hanging/weatherboarding to external wall panels, internal alterations and alterations to former coach house to convert from shop to garaging. **Applicant: Mr Richard Cochrane** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/13/00457/FUL: Bridge Road, Bridge Erection of polytunnels for raspberry growing. **Applicant: FW Mansfield & Son** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00464/FUL: Littlebourne Court, Church Road, Littlebourne, CT3 1TU Removal of existing log store to rear elevation. New single storey extension to be formed where the existing log store is situated to form new utility area and office. All finishes are to match those of existing. **Applicant: Design ID Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00465/LB: Littlebourne Court, Church Road, Littlebourne, CT3 1TU Removal of existing log store to rear elevation. New single storey extension to be formed where the existing log store is situated to form new utility area and office. All finishes are to match those of existing. **Applicant: Design ID Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00466/FUL: Honey Hill Farm, 11 Honey Hill, Blean, CT2 9JP Refurbishment of existing lean-to, new conservation pattern metal laylights, re-pointing, refurbishing main roof, re-instatement of original windows, addition of insulation. **Applicant: Mr Kay** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA/13/00467/LB: Honey Hill Farm, 11 Honey Hill, Blean, CT2 9JP Refurbishment of existing lean-to, new conservation pattern metal laylights, re-pointing, refurbishing main roof, re-instatement of original windows, addition of insulation. **Applicant: Mr Kay** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA/13/00469/FUL: Mulberry Cottage, The Street, Patricxbourne, Bekebourne, CT4 5BZ Retrospective application for works to Mulberry Cottage including the demolition of the existing stable block and its reconstruction, two storey extension and single story lean to extension to SE elevation, single storey extension to provide garden room to NW elevation and single storey extension to NE elevation. Demolition of existing out buildings and erection of two detached outbuildings linked by a glazed walkway, to provide a double garage/studio and store and a gym. **Applicant: Mr M August** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00470/CAC: Mulberry Cottage, The Street, Patricxbourne, Bekebourne, CT4 5BZ Retrospective application for works to Mulberry Cottage including the demolition of the existing stable block and its reconstruction, two storey extension and single story lean to extension to SE elevation, single storey extension to provide garden room to NW elevation and single storey extension to NE elevation. Demolition of existing out buildings and erection of two detached outbuildings linked by a glazed walkway, to provide a double garage/studio and store and a gym. **Applicant: Mr M August** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00472/FUL: Hope Cottage, Rattington Street, Chatham, CT4 7JG Demolition of existing double garage and replacement double garage with log store. **Applicant: Mr Challis** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00479/FUL: 38 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, CT5 1NW Replacement of ground floor windows. **Applicant: Mr S Tongue** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.management@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 15 April 2013**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 22 March 2013

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0200/SH - The Metropole The Leas Folkestone Kent CT20 2LU - Installation of a pair of gates to the east boundary wall.
Y13/0204/SH - Cherry Tree Cottage Canterbury Road Etchinghill Folkestone Kent - Coppicing of a Eucalyptus tree situated within a conservation area.
Y13/0203/SH - The Metropole The Leas Folkestone Kent CT20 2LU - Listed building consent for the installation of a pair of gates to the east boundary wall and infilling of pedestrian gate to south boundary wall.
Y13/0209/SH - 43 - 47 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 1RZ - Listed building consent for display of one internally illuminated fascia sign and two internally illuminated projecting signs, together with replacement secondary signage.
Y13/0201/SH - 43 - 47 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 1RZ - Display of one internally illuminated fascia sign and two internally illuminated projecting signs.
Y13/0178/SH - Roman House Canterbury Road Etchinghill Folkestone Kent - Erection of single storey side and rear extensions.
Y13/0224/SH+ - Ferndale 1 Station Road Hythe Kent CT21 5PL - Crown reduction of a Bay tree situated within a conservation area comprising the reduction in height and lateral branches by 1.5 metres.
Y13/0226/SH - Treetops The Undercliff Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Crown reduction of an Oak and an Ash tree situated within a conservation area, comprising reduction in height by 3 metres and reduction of lateral branches by 2 metres.
Y13/0061/SH - Lisheen The Undercliff Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Erection of a single storey side extension and enlarged balcony area, together with render and cladding to the main dwelling.
Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.
Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:
- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe
Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.
The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.
C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Proposed development at: Land at 59 Westcourt Lane, Westcourt Lane, Shepherdswell, Kent CT15 7PU
Take notice that application is being made by: Mr Frank McPhee
For planning permission to: Erection of one single storey dwelling
Local planning authority to whom the application is being submitted: Dover District Council, White Cliffs business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ
Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.
Signed: Mr Frank McPhee
Date: 19th March 2013
Statement of owner's rights: The grant of planning permission does not affect owner's rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or lease.
Statement of agricultural tenants' rights: The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.
"Owner" means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than 7 years.
"Tenant" means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL, in accordance with the provisions of s.53 (2) & 70 (3) (a) (b) of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976

HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the fees chargeable under the above for the grant of hackney carriage and private hire vehicle, driver licences and private hire operator licences, together with additional costs appertaining to such licences, shall be varied from 29 April 2013 as below:-

Fee increase from 29 April 2013

	Existing Fees	New Fees
Dual Driver's Licence (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire)		
On initial application	£167 for three years	£172 for three years
Disclosure & Barring Service	£44	£44
On renewal	£159 for three years	£163 for three years

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence		
On initial application	£294 for one year	£297 for one year

This includes:

Vehicle inspection by officer	£43	£44
Vehicle plate internal and external (includes holder)	£49	£51
Vehicle compliance test x 2	£122	£122
Vehicle licence	£80	£80
On renewal application	£259	£236
Private Hire Operator's Licence		
One vehicle	£169 for 3 years	£174 for 3 years
Up to and including 5 vehicles	£317 for 3 years	£332 for 3 years
For six or more vehicles	£66	£78

Additional Costs

Transfer of licence plate and change of ownership of licensed vehicle	£42 + £43.50	£88
Replace Vehicle Plate	£23	£23
Replace Identification Badge	£9	£9
Replace vehicle plate holder	£17.50	£18
Replace internal plate holder	£17.50	£18
Replace internal plate holder	£1.75	£1.75
Copies of existing licences	£8 each	£8 each
Change of address details for a replacement licence or for change of name for vehicle/operator licence	£10.50	£10.50
Change of name and address for a driver's badge	£20	£20
Attempting "Knowledge Test" after two failures	£45 for each attempt	£46 for each attempt
Vehicle exemption certificate or general administration fee	£43	£44
Door transfers PHV only (per transfer)	£7.50	£7.70
Door transfers PHV (per magnetic transfer)	£12.50	£12.90
An additional fee of £30.00 for the Hackney Carriage Proprietors licence fee to cover cost for 2013/14 demand survey'		

A copy of this Notice shall, for a period of twenty-eight days from the date of first publication, be deposited at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS

Persons wishing to make objections to these proposals may do so in writing to the undersigned by 19th April 2013

Licensing Partnership P.O. Box 182 Sevenoaks Kent TN13 1GP licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

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HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

VARIOUS ROADS, CHARING, EGERTON & PLUCKLEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on certain roads in Charing, Egerton and Pluckley, on or after 25 March 2013.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

BOWL ROAD, CHARING will be closed between Charing Hill and Stalisfield Road from 25 - 28 March 2013 inclusive

The alternative route is via Hart Hill, Maidstone Road & Charing Hill.

ROCK HILL ROAD / THE STREET / STONEBRIDGE GREEN ROAD, EGERTON will be closed from Malthouse Farm to the junction with Iden Lane on 25 March 2013

The alternative route is via Coach Road, Egerton House Road, Link Hill Lane & Crocken Hill Road.

SURRENDEN ROAD, PLUCKLEY will be closed between the junctions with Swan Lane and Pluckley Road on 27 & 28 March 2013

The alternative route is via Swan Lane, Forge Hill, Station Road & Dowle Street Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, RURAL ASHFORD (PATCHING)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER
APRIL 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the rural part of the Ashford area, on or after 8 April 2013 as shown below.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

MALMAINS ROAD, PLUCKLEY - closed between Station Road and Surrenden Road

8 - 16 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Station Road, Dowle Street Road and Surrenden Road

ETCHDEN ROAD, BETHERSDEN - closed between Park Lane and Bears Lane

13 - 15 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Park Lane, Vitters Oak Lane and Goldwell Lane

WOOTTON LANE, CHARING - closed between Westwell Lane and Maidstone Road

15 - 18 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Westwell Lane, Wicken Lane and A20 Ashford Road

SLY CORNER, KENNARDINGTON - closed between Bench Hill and Appledore Road

16 - April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Woodchurch Road, Kenardington Road and Appledore Road.

LEWD LANE, SMARDEN - closed between Bell Lane and Mount Pleasant Farm

18 - 25 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Bell Lane, Water Lane, Mill Lane and Pluckley Road

MOCKBEGGAR LANE, BENENDEN - closed between Goddards Green Road and Cranbrook Road

19 - 21 April 2013.

Alternative route via Goddards Green Road, Benenden Road and Cranbrook Road

MOOR LANE, APPLEDORE - closed between Woodchurch Road and New Bridge

21 - 25 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Moor Lane, Brook Street, Appledore Road, Bench Hill and Woodchurch Road

PARK LANE, CHARING - closed between Hunger Hatch Lane and Pivington Lane

24 - 26 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Bell Lane, Water Lane, Mill Lane, Pluckley Road and Hunger Hatch Lane

PRIORY ROAD, BILSINGTON - closed between Frith Road and Bonnington Road

24 - 30 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Frith Road, Ashford Road and Bonnington Road

RUSHBROOK & DOWLE STREET ROAD , PLUCKLEY - closed between Station Road and Malmaims Road

26 April - 4 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Station Road and Malmaims Road

BOND LANE, KINGSNORTH - closed between Steeds Lane and Church Hill

29 April - 3 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Steeds Lane, Ashford Road and Church Hill

COOPERS LANE, MERSHAM - closed between Roman Road and Chequer Tree Farm Road.

3 May & 7 - 9 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Bank Road, Laws Lane, Frith Road and Coopers Lane

MALTHOUSE LANE, WAREHORNE - closed between Woodchurch Road and Warehome Road

9 - 11 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Warehome Road, Ashford Road, Ham Street Road and Birchett Lane

LOWER ENSDEN ROAD, CHILHAM - closed between Selling Road to Lower Lees Road

11 - 13 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Selling Road and Lower Lees Road

BONNINGTON ROAD, BILSINGTON - closed between Priory Road and Bonnington Cross

13 - 15 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Newchurch Road, Honey Wood Lane and Frogmore Lane

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

LOWER HERNE ROAD, HERNE BAY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Herne Road, Heme Bay, on or after 25 March 2013 for up to 3 days, between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day.

The road will be closed in phases between the junction with Bullockstone Road and the *northern* junction with Canterbury Road.

The alternative route is via Bullockstone Road, A291 Canterbury Road, Herne Street and Canterbury Road.

PROSPECT PLACE, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of footway and carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Prospect Place, Canterbury, on or after 25 March 2013 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Nunnery Fields and Puckle Lane.

WESTGATE TOWERS, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to modify the road network following the end of the experimental traffic scheme, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic in the Westgate Towers area of Canterbury, on or after 12 April 2013, as shown below.

A290 ST DUNSTAN'S STREET, ST PETER'S PLACE & NORTH LANE

A290 St Dunstan's Street and St Peter's Place will be closed between the junctions with Linden Grove and Tower Way.

North Lane will be closed between the junction with A290 St Dunstan's Street and the entrance to the public car park.

This closure is from Friday 12 April at 19:00 hours until Monday 15 April at 06:00 hours (re-opened sooner, if works completed)

There will be no through access between St Peter's Place and North Lane / St Dunstan's Street.

Access to Tower Way will be maintained from St Peter's Place.

There will be managed access from St Peter's Street into St Peter's Place / St Dunstan's Street

The alternative route is via North Lane, B2248 Station Road West, A290 St Dunstan's Street, London Road, Rheims Way and St Peter's Place.

A290 ST DUNSTAN'S STREET & STATION ROAD WEST

A290 St Dunstan's Street will be closed between the junctions with Roper Road and Kirby's Lane.

Station Road West will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with St Dunstan's Street.

This closure is planned for Sunday 21 April between 07:00 hours and 23:00 hours, with the road re-opened once the works have been completed.

The alternative route is the same as for the above closure, or via B2248 Station Road West, North Lane and A290 St Dunstan's Street.

These works are weather dependent, and adverse conditions may delay their progress or prevent them going ahead on the planned dates.

If there is a need for a postponement, revised dates will be notified and signposted on site.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

HYTHE STREET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Bridge testing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hythe Street, on or after 26th March 2013 for up to 1 night between the hours 22.00hr and 06.00hr or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed 25 meters either side of the bridge.

The alternative route is via Hythe street A2026, Mill Pond Road, Temple Hill, Temple Hill Sqaure, St Vincents Road, The Brent A226, E Hill, Home Gardens and Hythe Street and Vice versa.

PRINCES ROAD A296, DARTFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)

TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of pavement renewal work on A282 roundabout (Princes Road), Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Princess Road A296, on or after 10th April 2013 for up to 2 nights or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A225/A296 Princes Road Eastbound to gain access to the M25/A282 clockwise or anti clockwise at M25 junction 1B or A296 Princes Road will be diverted Via A225 and B2174 Princes Road, westbound A2 18 Sheppard's Lane and Old Baily Lane to Dartford Heath interchange, A2 Dartford by-pass and Eastbound to M25 junction junction2

Traffic from A296 Princes Road westbound to gain access to M25/A282 anticlockwise or A225 Princes Road at M25 junction 1B shall be diverted from the A296/B2500 Watling Street junction of the A296 Watling Street to Bean interchange and A2 Dartford by pass westbound to M25 junction (Darenth interchange) M25/A282 anticlockwise or continue via Link road to M25 junction1B where diversion ends.

WARREN ROAD, SOUTHFLEET
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a blockage ina BT duct, Kent County Council intend to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Warren Road Southfleet, on or after 8th April 2013 for up to 7 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of New Barn Road and near the junction of Dale Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions

The alternative route is via New Barn Road and Red Street.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

COLDRED HILL, SHEPHERDSWELL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coldred Hill, Shepherdswell, on or after 8 April 2013 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the A2 Trunk Road and Church Road, with no access to Coldred and Shepherdswell from the A2 using this route.

The alternative route is via A2 Dover Road, Sandwich Road, Whitfield, Sandwich Road, Tilmanstone, Kennel Hill, The Street, Coldred Road, Eythorne and Church Road, Coldred.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

CRIPPLE STREET, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install an underground electric cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cripple Street, Tovil, Maidstone, on or after 8 April 2013 for up to 7 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Bockingford Court.

The alternative route is via A229 Loose Road, Rosemount Close, Old Loose Hill, High Banks, Busbridge Road, Stockett Lane, Bockingford Lane, Teasaurer Hill.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

FIRMINGERS ROAD, SHOREHAM, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the cleansing of a highway soakway to prevent local flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Firmingers Road, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, on or after 25th March 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Well Hill Nursery. There will be no access for through traffic at this point.

The alternative route is via Well Hill, Rock Hill.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION
(SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994 SECTION 16A
DARENTH VALLEY 10K VARIOUS ROADS, EYNSFORD & FARNINGHAM

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, Eynsford and Farningham as noted in schedule 1 on 14th April 2013 between the hours of 08:30am and 10:30am.

The Order will become effective on 1st April 2013 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 12 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road Name: High Street, Eynsford Road, Eynsford Northbound from the entrance to Anthony Roper School to the junction with Gorse Hill. Southbound from 150 yards North of Priory Lane up to the entrance to Anthony Roper School.

Extent: N/A

Diversion: N/A

Road Name: High Street, Farningham

Extent: In both directions between its junction with Eynsford Road and Sparepenny Lane.

Road Name: Sparepenny Lane, Farningham

Extent 1: In both directions between its junction with High Street, Farningham and Riverside.

Diversion: from Wested Lane/Crockenhill Lane via the A20 and Eynsford Road.

Road Name: Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford

Extent 1: In both directions between the South side of the entrance to Lullingstone Park Visitors Centre and the junction with Castle Farm Road.

Diversion: via High Street, Shoreham and the A225.

Date: 1st April 2013

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate safety to road users and members of the public.

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KINGSDOWN - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, West Kingsdown as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 31st March 2013, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 12 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways & Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

Schedule 1

Restriction:	Temporary One Way Order Eastbound from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
Road Name:	Scratchers Lane, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	From its junction with A20 London Road/Gorse Hill to its junction with Three Gates Lane.
Diversion:	A20 London Road and Fawkham Road. Traffic lights will also be placed at the junction of A20 London Road and Gorse Hill that will be manually controlled between 06.00 - 22.00 hours to assist vehicles leaving Brands Hatch Race Circuit.
Restriction:	30mph Speed Limit from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	Between W J Kings Garage London Road, Farningham and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station, West Kingsdown.
Restriction:	Suspend Cycle Lane Order from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/ Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent 1:	Between Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station and Scratchers Lane.
Extent 2:	Between Scratchers Lane and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station.
Diversion:	Cyclists should dismount and walk along the pavement for the length of the restriction.
Restriction:	No Right Turn from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
1:	Into Donkey Lane southbound from A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.
2:	Out of Donkey Lane onto A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.
Dates:	31st March, 7th April, 21st April, 19th May, 21st July, 13th October, 20th October and 3rd November 2013

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate safety to road users and members of the public.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

A2033 DOVER ROAD, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to the underground cable network to provide a new customer phone service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A2033 Dover Road, Folkestone, on or after 8 April 2013, between 21:00 hours through until 06:00 hours.

The road will be closed northbound only, between the junctions with Bradstone Road and Bellevue Street.

The full alternative route is via A2033 Dover Road, Grace Hill, Shellons Street, Middelburg Square, A2034 Cheriton Gardens, A259 Shorncliffe Road, Cheriton Road, Radnor Park Road, Pavilion Road, Black Bull Road, Canterbury Road, A260 Hill Road, Dover Road, Southern Way, The Tram Road, Harbour Street and Tontine Street.

PLAIN ROAD, SELLINDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to refurbish the overhead electricity

pylon network, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plain Road, Sellindge, on or after 9 April 2013 as shown below.

Closures are planned for 9 April 2013 for up to 5 weeks 29 July 2013 for up to 4 weeks

The road will be closed between the junctions with Lilyvale Road and Southenay Lane.

The actual closure is in the vicinity of where the electricity pylons cross the road, with access from either direction up to the point of closure.

The alternative route is via Stone Hill, A20 Ashford Road, Hythe Road, Church Road and Plain Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, STELLING MINNIS & STOWTING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to refurbish the overhead electricity pylon network, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Stelling Minnis & Stowting, on or after 8 April 2013, as shown below.

The actual closures are in the vicinity of where the electricity pylons cross the road, with access from either direction up to the point of closure.

SANDY LANE, STELLING MINNIS will be closed between the junctions with Mockbeggar and Eastleigh Court Road.

Planned closures are 9 April 2013 for up to 4 weeks 15 July 2013 for up to 4 weeks

The alternative route is via Mockbeggar, High Minnis and Eastleigh Court Road.

GILDREDGE HILL, STELLING MINNIS will be closed between the junctions with Fryarne Park and Elham Park / South Lodge Road

Planned closures are 9 April 2013 for up to 4 weeks 28 June 2013 for up to 7 weeks

The alternative route is via Fryarne Park, Palmstead Road, Peafield Wood Road, Fishers Lane and South Lodge Road

STOWTING HILL, STOWTING will be closed between the junctions with Stowting Court Road / Curteis Lane and Brabourne Lane

Planned closures are 22 Apr 2013 for up to 4 weeks 12 July 2013 for up to 4 weeks

The alternative route is via Brabourne Lane, Canterbury Road, Scots Lane & Stowting Court Road and Stowting Hill

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

HERESON ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of low voltage cable repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to prohibit waiting on part of Hereson Road, Ramsgate, on or after 8 April 2013 for up to 2 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

Waiting will be prohibited at any time on the west side of Hereson Road, to the south of the junction with Lillian Road, outside numbers 76 - 80.

These restrictions apply when the relevant signs and No Waiting cones are in place.

HIGH STREET, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the use of a mobile crane, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Margate, on or after 14 April 2013 for up to 1 day, **between 08:00 hours and 14:00 hours.**

The road will be closed for its entire length.

New Street will be closed at the junction with High Street

The alternative route is via Market Street, Lombard Street, Hawley Street, Cecil Square and Queen Street.

LINDEN CLOSE, WESTGATE-ON-SEA, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Linden Close, Westgate-on-Sea, Margate, on or after 8 April 2013 for up to 2 days, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours each day.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac. Every effort will be made to try and maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

B2051 MARINE DRIVE & THE PARADE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway re-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2051 Marine Drive and The Parade, Margate, on or after 25 March 2013 for up to 5 nights, as shown below.

Closures are planned for the nights of 25, 26, 27 & 28 March and 2 April 2013, between 19:00 hours through until 04:00 hours each night.

The road will be closed from the junction with A28 Marine Terrace to the junction with Fort Road.

The alternative route for through traffic is via B2055 Marine Gardens, Queen Street, Cecil Square, Hawley Street, Trinity Hill, Trinity Square, Zion Place, Fort Crescent and Fort Hill.

There will be managed south-bound access beyond King Street for residents and businesses to reach High Street, Market Street, The Parade (the one-way section fronting shops) and Duke Street.

Traffic will be able to exit King Street north-bound only

PARK ROAD & PARK CRESCENT ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Park Road and Park Crescent Road, Margate, on or after 8 April 2013, as shown below.

PARK ROAD, MARGATE will be closed for its entire length, on 8 April 2013, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours

The alternative route is via Dane Road, Addiscombe Road and Park Crescent Road.

PARK CRESCENT ROAD, MARGATE will be closed for its entire length, on 9 April 2013 between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours

The alternative route is via Park Road, Dane Road, Addiscombe Road and Park Crescent Road.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING

RYARSH LANE, WEST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF PARKING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a sewer lining, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting parking on Ryarsh Lane, West Malling, on or after 25 March 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The parking will be prohibited at the junction with King Street.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS

CULVERDEN PARK ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to reinstate a patch in the middle of the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Culverden Park Road, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 8 April 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 7.

The alternative route is via Culverden Park and Culverden Down.

John Burr
 Director of Highways & Transportation
 Kent County Council
 Invicta House
 County Hall,
 Maidstone
 Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 24th March 2013

For further information, please contact
 Kent County Council Highways & Transportation,
 on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS CB327 & CC46 IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY**

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS CB327 & CC46)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY
RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public
Bridleways CB327 & CC46 from the 3rd April 2013.

Public Bridleway CB327 will be closed from its
junction with Hode Lane (U11577) at NGR TR 175 561 to
its junction with Public Bridleway CC46 at NGR TR 172
564 for a distance of approximately 428 metres.

Public Bridleway CC46 will be closed from its junction
with Public Bridleway CB327 at NGR TR 172 564 to its
junction with Pilgrims Way (U19190) at NGR TR 164
569 for a distance of approximately 980 metres.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months.
However it is expected that the paths will be available
when work schedules permit access.

The paths are to be closed because overhead power
line refurbishment works are planned near them and
there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There are no alternative routes.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams
on 0845 3450210.

Or for further details on temporary closures on the
Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/
countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FOOTPATH ER298 AT SHEPHERDSWELL WITH COLDRED) DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 14th March 2013 the Kent County Council
confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the
Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a
footpath which commences at the junction of public
footpaths ER80 and ER81 and runs along the edge of
a field in a south-south-easterly direction for 204.0
metres and then turns to run in a south-south-
westerly direction for 94.0 metres to its connection
with public footpath ER83. The path has a width of
1.2 metres.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be
seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of
Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park,
Dover, Kent, CT16 3PG or at the Kent County Council,
PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and
map may also be purchased there at the price of £5.

This Order became operative as from 14th March 2013
but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to
question the validity thereof or of any provision
contained therein on the grounds that it is not within
the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) of the Wildlife and
Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements
of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with
in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may,

under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within
42 days from 24th March 2013 make application for
the purpose to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS34 IN THE PARISH OF LEYSDOWN****PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS34 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of
which is to temporarily close Public Right of Way
ZS34, between The Promenade and the Central Beach
Park slipway to the beach at NGR TR031 708 from the
18th March 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months,
although it is expected that it will reopen before the
end of June 2013.

The path will be closed because works to repair the
sea wall are planned near it and there is a likelihood
of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michael Ellis on
0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the
Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/
countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE BYWAY MR226 IN THE PARISH OF WROTHAM****BYWAY MR226 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close
Byway MR226, between its junction with Pilgrims Way
and its junction with Restricted Byway MR231 (New
House Lane) at NGR TQ601 595 from the 11th April
2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months,
although it is expected that it will reopen before the
end of May 2013.

The path is to be closed because works are planned
near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michele Snodding
0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the
Rights of Way network see:

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MOTOR-RACING

Motorsport is in great health, says MSV chief exec

BRANDS Hatch-owner Motorsport Vision Racing has revealed a bumper line-up ahead of its busiest-ever year.

MSVR will be organising 37 meetings across seven circuits this season, while it is also involved in 22 car championships and series, representatives of which were at Brands this week to talk about the season ahead.

Jonathan Palmer, chief executive of Motorsport Vision, which runs MSVR, explained that it was important to continually improve relationships with those they work with.

"It's absolutely fundamental to us that we don't just operate championships that run with us but help them to continue to be extremely successful and look after their futures, too," he said.

"The great thing about MSVR is the energy, the enthusiasm, the motivation from each of the disciplines we represent.

"As MSVR we get great satisfaction from working together in partnership to build these things up, and it's the great mixture of different types of racing that's terrific.

"National motor-racing in this country really is in great health and particularly when there is real energy and cooperation between the key parties involved in making it so."

New for this season is the single-seater BRDC Formula 4 Championship which is aiming to provide a springboard for young drivers towards Formula 1. There was also positive news from the Radical SRI Cup, the Atom Cup, the F3 Cup and the Monoposto Championship, with the recurring theme that competitor numbers are up, helped largely by reduced running costs.

Other big events for the track this season include the American Speedfest in June, which brings with it the Euro NASCAR series, and the centenary celebrations of Aston Martin in July and the Lotus Festival in August.

Top-class on-track action starts at Brands next weekend with the first round of the British Touring Car Championships, followed a week later by the opening round of the British Superbike Championship.



POSITIVE: Palmer

MOTOR-RACING

Byrne aims to be BSB's top dog in showdown with Kiyo

Sittingbourne's three-time British Superbike champ Shane Byrne talks to **Greg Miles** about the new season and his hunger for a fourth crown

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne finds himself in the unusual position of defending his British Superbike title for the first time in his career this year, despite having won it three times before. However, he admits that he is hungrier than ever to add to his trophy cabinet in what is set to be a thrilling BSB season starting next month.

The Sittingbourne star won the 2012 title in dramatic fashion in October, joining an elite club of triple-crown-holders, alongside Niall Mackenzie and Ryuichi Kiyonari. The latter is back in BSB this season to fight it out with Byrne for a fourth title, while the Japanese rider will be keen to hang on to his record of 43 race wins – just two ahead of Byrne.

The Kent man was this week putting the finishing touches to his pre-season plans with testing at Donington Park, Brands Hatch and Snetterton before heading back to his home in Spain for a last bit of fitness training.

After winning titles in 2003 and 2008, he tried his hand in MotoGP and World Superbikes. He had offers for MotoGP for this season but chose to stay with his winning team.

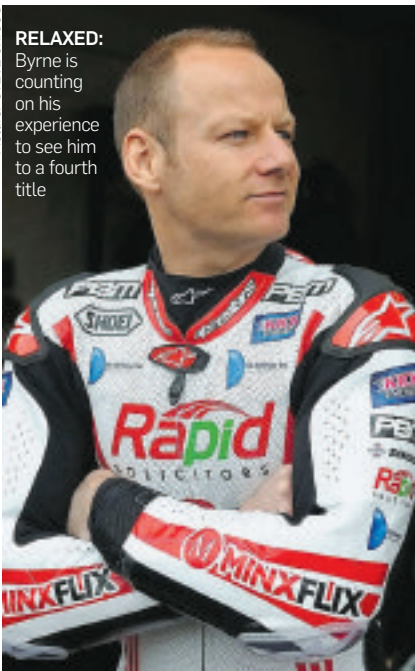
"I have never defended a title – every year I have cleared off to World Superbike or MotoGP," he said. "The nice thing is I am two race wins away from being the most successful rider.

"To have the thing of going head-to-head with Kiyo [Kiyonari] to win four titles is a massive thing for me and something I want to achieve.

"I want to be a four-time champion, but that's not enough, either. I want to win five or six titles. If Kiyo wasn't in the championship I would still be going for it. I'm looking at the bar he's set."

As normal he has kept himself fit over the off-season, spending more of it than usual in his native England, mixing cycling with running and some strength work in the gym.

"The off-season this year, for some reason, has been one of the longest ever," he said. "Technically, it isn't as it's the same amount of days. We finished last season on a high and I have been desperate to get going ever since. It's 2013 now and I want to win it all again. I'm not resting on my laurels."



RELAXED: Byrne is counting on his experience to see him to a fourth title

The big talking point is the return of Kiyonari, who last raced in BSB in 2011, and his head-to-head on-track rivalry with Byrne. But Byrne is taking a more relaxed approach to his motivation than when he was younger, focusing more on his riding than his rivals.

"A few years ago you looked at things differently as a rider," he said. "If you were running up a mountain you would think they were behind you, so it made you push hard.

"If I concentrate on what I do, by a Sunday afternoon we're going to be there or thereabouts anyway. We have got a pretty good way of working now. I'm quite relaxed about things now.

2013 BSB CALENDAR

ROUND 1	Brands Hatch Indy	April 5/6/7
ROUND 2	Thruxton	April 12/13/14
ROUND 3	Oulton Park	May 4/5/6
ROUND 4	Knockhill	June 14/15/16
ROUND 5	Snetterton 300	July 5/6/7
ROUND 6	Brands Hatch GP	July 19/20/21
ROUND 7	Oulton Park	August 9/10/11
ROUND 8	Cadwell Park	August 24/25/26
ROUND 9	Donington Park	September 6/7/8
SHOWDOWNS		
ROUND 10	TT Circuit Assen	September 20/21/22
ROUND 11	Silverstone Grand Prix	October 4/5/6
ROUND 12	Brands Hatch GP	October 18/19/20

"I'm actually really good at switching off. I can't sit here and tell you that racing is my life, blah blah blah. I have a job to do at the racetrack and I will do that as best I can. It's important to be as mentally prepared as physically.

"Before, I used to drive myself bonkers about who I wanted to beat. I would make myself sick all the time by over-training.

"Your body evolves – you know what you need – and if you struggle you know what you need to do to improve. Every year that you race, your body becomes more used to racing. You will not see a fat racer because it's very physically demanding."

SPORTS SHORTS

FOOTBALL

Old favourite Sheringham and Dons striker sign on at Darts

DARTFORD have bolstered their attacking options with the signings of old favourite Charlie Sheringham and Wimbledon forward Jason Prior.

Sheringham, 24, left for Bournemouth in October 2011 after scoring 30 goals in 46 games for the Darts.

But he has not played since Boxing Day that season after suffering a severe foot injury against Brentford from which he is still recovering.

It is a similar story for Dons striker Prior, who signed for the League Two outfit from Bognor Regis Town in January 2012 after hitting 95 goals in 121 games.

However, he suffered a double leg-break in just his second start in April last year. The 24-year-old has made four appearances since recovering, his first coming in December.

The pair are both on loan at Dartford until the end of the season on emergency loans.

CRICKET

Kent sign new three-year deal ahead of first friendly match

KENT have announced office technology-provider Balreed as their new major sponsor on a three-year contract.

The deal will see the company's logo appearing on Kent's playing and replica shirts for the next three seasons.

The deal follows work that Balreed carried out at Kent's St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury, which has had extensive redevelopment in the past couple of years.

"We have been impressed by the standard of service offered by Balreed, particularly since moving into our new office building at the St Lawrence Ground," said Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford.

"We look forward to working with Balreed more closely and are extremely pleased to have them on board."

Kent play their first friendly, against Hampshire, at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton, on Thursday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

New Dragons coach eager to fill big boots in new challenge

MEDWAY Dragons have appointed a new head coach for the forthcoming season.

Mark Roughsedge has replaced Martin Coyd, who stepped down midway through the off season at the Gillingham-based side.

He is no stranger to the club, having been involved with their wheelchair rugby league set-up and working with the England wheelchair side with Coyd. He has also worked as a community coach in south

London, at Croydon Hurricanes, and a scholarship coach for Super League side London Broncos.

Roughsedge said: "It goes without saying that I have huge boots to fill and it's a challenge I'm looking forward to getting my teeth stuck into.

"To be asked to play such a key role in one of the leading community rugby league clubs in the country is a real honour."

The Dragons start their new season at the end of April.

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

FOOTBALL

Pen-pal Allen staying in touch with Gills fans, apart from one

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

CUSTOMER care is being taken to a new level at Priestfield these days, with Gills boss Martin Allen personally responding to fans' letters... all apart from one that left him with a wry smile this week.

Allen says that, had the writer of this particular note left an address, he would have made a swift visit to their home to have a chat over a cup of tea.

He takes a keen interest in all correspondence addressed to him at the club and responds to letters from fans, sometimes with a quick phone call if he has time.

The latest fan to get in touch has left him grinning ear to ear, with the author suggesting that performances have not been up to scratch and urging him to sign a new striker to fire them out of League Two.

Allen tells the story: "I had a wonderful letter from a supporter who told me the results were rubbish and we need to get a goalscorer. It did make me smile. The results have been rubbish, blah blah blah. It doesn't make me more determined or angry – I just smile. I put it straight in the bin.

"Everyone that writes to me I always write back, which I think is a nice thing to do. I haven't got a secretary.

"They want to talk about their life, their problems, they ask me how Monty [Allen's dog] is. Nearly always they put their name and address and telephone number, so I ring them up for a chat, which is nice.

"But this letter, the person that wrote it didn't put his name or mobile, and what a shame he didn't put his address, because wouldn't it be lovely? I would have been straight round his house: 'Hi, can we have a chat over a cup of tea?' No name, no address, no telephone number."

He has taken it with a pinch of salt, though, admitting that he enjoys the relationship he has with Gills fans.

"It does make me curious, it makes me won-



Picture: ADY KERRY

NO GO: Martin Allen is unsure if he wants to bring in another player ahead of the loan window closing

der," he said. "I do live around here. I see a lot of Gills supporters and I don't think there are too many that are unhappy."

With the emergency loan window set to close on Thursday, March 28, he admits there is a slim chance that there may be an addition to his squad, but he is does not want to upset the good balance he has at a critical time of the season, while he is not keen to bring in a big name, either, as another fan recently suggested he do.

"The other day, someone asked me about a marquee signing. I said 'Why do we need a tent in our team?'. He said 'No, a big name to get the team going'. I said 'We won't get one playing while I'm here'. I want us as a team. There are

no stars. They all look after each other and help each other. That's what has the recipe has been.

"The whole club can have a nice lift-off slowly, carefully and cleverly. Mr Scally has offered big bucks for players, big bucks at times that have not been accepted, and players have not wanted to drop from the Championship. We've done everything we can. I've had full backing. If players don't want to come, I don't lose any sleep."

One loan player who has moved on is Newcastle United youngster Michael Richardson. His one-month spell ended after Tuesday's 1-1 draw at Rochdale.

• Gills are at home to Accrington Stanley on Saturday (kick-off 3pm).



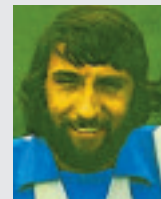
This season marks the 100th anniversary of the Gills being known as Gillingham, having originally being founded as New Brompton. We are celebrating those we think deserve a place in the team of the century.

BRIAN YEO

Date of birth:
April 12, 1944

Gills stats: 387 appearances, 149 goals

Clubs: Portsmouth, Gillingham



IF there is one man that captured the imagination of a generation, it is Gillingham's all-time leading goalscorer, Brian Yeo.

Born in Worthing, West Sussex, Yeo started his career with Portsmouth in 1959, turning professional two years later. However, his stay at Fratton Park was short-lived.

He made just two appearances, both coming against Coventry City in 1963. He was released at the end of the season and was signed by Freddie Cox, who had managed Yeo at Pompey and had since been sacked and taken over at the Gills.

Yeo had to wait for his chance in the first team but swiftly got on the score-sheet just four minutes into his debut, against Torquay United at Priestfield in October 1963. He scored just once more in 11 appearances in his first season as the Gills won the Fourth Division title.

His goals-to-games ratio improved the following year as he netted six in 10, including five in two matches. He was more prolific with the reserve side during his first two seasons, scoring more than 50 goals.

In 1968/69 he top-scored with 18 and won player of the season. He top-scored again in 1971/72 with 24 goals, becoming just the second player to score more than 100 goals for the Gills. It was not long before he broke former strike partner Brian Gibbs's record of 110 the following campaign, at the end of which he had his testimonial in front of a Priestfield crowd of 12,292 in a 2-1 defeat to West Ham.

He finally hung up his boots in 1975 and went on to manage Folkestone and Canterbury City before running a news-agents in Gillingham.

So, do you agree?

Send in your opinions on our choice or who you think would have been a better option. Email greg.miles@archant.co.uk or write to Sport, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth TN25 6SS

Team sheet

- 1) Ron Hilliard
- 2) Steve Bruce
- 3) Chris Hope
- 4) Charlie Marks
- 5) Dennis Hunt
- 6) Andy Hestenthaler
- 7) Dick Tydemann
- 8) Terry Cochran
- 9) Nicky Southall
- 10) Brian Yeo
- 11) ???????

RUGBY UNION

Promotion and title already wrapped up for Maidstone, who now eye a date at home of rugby in national final

MAIDSTONE are just one victory away from playing at the home of rugby as their incredible season continues.

Maidstone are unbeaten in all competitions so far, having already clinched the London South East 3 title at the beginning of the month, and are now within a game of playing at Twickenham in the final of the RFU Senior Vase.

Last weekend they beat Cantabrigian 57-7 in the regional final to make it to the national semi-final, where they will play Gloucestershire outfit Drybrook RFC at the Mote on March 30.

They heartbreakingly fell at the same stage last season to the eventual winners and so have more incentive than ever to go one better to top off what has already been a fantastic season.

The club's deputy chairman, Bob Hayton, said: "We went out of the competition at this stage last year and went out to the eventual winners. We had some players away that day, which was just unfortunate for us. Winning this competition



Picture: BOB HAYTON

MUDBATH: Maidstone prevailed on a soggy pitch

had always been one of the aims. It's quite a difficult thing to achieve. If you look at the four semi-finalists, they are all going for promotion in their own leagues."

With a lot at stake, Hayton knows the opposition have been keeping an eye on their performances.

"I know they came to watch us play Cantabrigian in the regional final," he said. "That's something we picked up from their Twitter account."

Winning the cup would be the icing on the cake for the club, and unsurprisingly fans are already eying up a date at Twickenham, with the final taking place on May 4.

"Everyone can see the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow," said Hayton. "It's one of those tired old clichés, but we are trying to look at it one game at a time."

"The cup has provided some real focus for us. By the end of February we were promoted, and the first week in March we had won the title. How the first team is doing is a good barometer for the rest of the club – morale is great."

Maidstone have overcome Bognor, Pulborough, Hitchin, Old Priorians and Cantabrigian on their way to the national stage of the competition.

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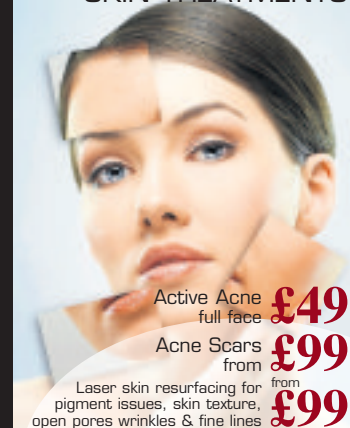
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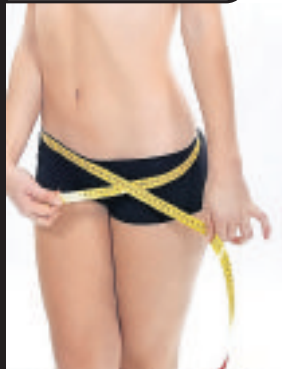
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